

May 30, 1979

Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson
M. C. C. Detroit
Detroit, Michigan

Re: COWIM

Dear Nan:

As you know, I have been attending COWIM for the past 18 months (3 times). During that time, MCC has been involved with the Task Force on Gay Issues -- at times acting as counselor to the women ministers involved in that Task Force, reassuring them and trying to make those women who are gay feel a sense of hope whether they are in the established churches or feel drawn to ministry in M.C.C.

We have worked with them on issues of sexuality, political strategy, gays in seminaries, and ordination of gay men and women. During at least one session of COWIM, because of the presence of male leadership from the National Council of Churches Professional Leadership Division (COWIM's parent division) there was a great deal of gay paranoia, and it was incumbent upon the MCC persons there to deal with that issue immediately and I trust to the "gentling down" of the whole issue, so that the women could function more effectively.

Recently, in addition, COWIM, MCC and New Ways ministry sponsored a "Gay, Feminist and Christian" conference at Kirkridge Retreat Center in Bangor, Pa. This was in response to the number of women who felt that the "Gay, and Christian" Conference of last year did not meet the needs of the feminist women who were present at that conference. Nancy Krody, Linda Brebner, Lynn Josselin, Martha Blacklock (all of COWIM) and I were the facilitators for that conference.

For the October COWIM meeting, MCC and the Task Force on Gay Issues are preparing a human sexuality workshop to be presented at that meetings plenary session. Additionally, MCC recently was in charge of the worship service for the COWIM meeting and Rev. Delores Berry of Baltimore was invited to join me for the worship.

Our presence at COWIM, our ability to provide nurturance to gay women ministers at that organization, and our ability to help allay anxiety by presenting them with models of ministers who are gay,

functioning and unafraid is a valuable ministry which we can do for our sisters in the mainline churches.

Additionally, MCC has made many good friends among the women ministers, people who value us as ministers and who recognize the very valid ministry of MCC, not only to the gay community but to all people in the cities in which are churches are located.

For this reason, I urge you to urge the Elders to continue to support our presence at COWIM. It has been my feeling that possibly Rev. Elder Cureton, not having experienced our presence at COWIM might not feel that the money spent to send an MCC person to COWIM is money well spent. Troy has indicated otherwise to me.

The Fellowship now has a bill for the conference of last March (1978) which has not been paid, and I am submitting herewith a copy of the bill which I am forwarding to Jim Sandmire for payment, which MCC Providence (which certainly cannot afford to spend the money, considering the precarious financial condition of this church) has already laid out over \$100.00.

You are aware of how MCC affects COWIM and how COWIM supports the efforts of MCC. This is one of the most effective ecumenical tools we have, for here women ministers from the mainline churches have an opportunity to live with us, eat with us, work with us and get to know gay people in ministry. That could have lasting effect on how MCC is seen and dealt with in ecumenical organizations -- not only NCC -- in which these women hold executive positions.

There also needs to be a new representative to COWIM appointed. Dee has often been too busy to attend and I have been going for some time now. With my leaving immanent, I have taken the liberty of sounding out Karen Ziegler about her desire to take this on, and she, of course, has already had some contact with the women at 475 Riverside and the women at Riverside Church. She would be an excellent person to send, is interested in ecumenical activities, and cares.

I have loved being part of COWIM. I consider some of the women there close personal friends at this time, and will miss them. I think their respect for MCC has grown with knowing us. I want to thank you for the opportunity I have had to represent MCC and for taking part in COWIM's support of women ministers.

It was good to see you at District Conference, and look forward to General Conference in August.

In Christ's love,

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
M.C.C. Providence

mfr

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Additionally, MCC has made many good friends among the women ministers, people who value us as ministers and who recognize the very valid ministry of MCC, not only to the gay community but to all people in the cities in which our churches are located.

For this reason, I urge you to urge the Elders to continue to support our presence at COWIM. It has been my feeling that possibly Rev. Elder Carleton, not having experienced our presence at COWIM might not feel that the money spent to send an MCC person to COWIM is money well spent. Troy has indicated otherwise to me.

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It was good to see you at District Conference, and look forward to General Conference in August.

In Christ's love,

Rev. Marge Radons, Pastor
M.C.C. Providence

April 22, 1979

Rev. Elder Freda Smith
Metropolitan Community Church of
Sacramento
P.O. Box 5282
Sacramento, Calif. 95817

Dear Freda:

Enclosed is a letter which I wrote Troy and which I think is self-explanatory. Can anyone help Richard? He has gone out on something of a limb, considering that he is still in the Army. I think a lot of him, and I believe his motives really are sound.

It was good to see you at Eastern Ministers' Conference and to meet Jean White. I have sent her crosses to Sacramento and hope they reach her before she leaves. I am enclosing a bill for her (which I forgot to send along) and hope this reaches her in time also. (Not pushing, just realized I had left it out of the envelope.)

I wonder how the elders would feel about separating the MCAC for the time from the Ministerial Concerns subcommittee. So many of the ministers seemed to be at a painful place, and it's hard to reach out for care and comfort to the very people before whom one is supposed to look "together" and competent. (Even though we all know that most of us at some time in our professional lives will be anything but that!) I can see a real need to the Concerns people to be really activated -- and for a ministerial association so that people can help strengthen each other. Concerns does not seem to be functioning at present. Can it be activated? I know that a number of the ministers in the East reach out to each other for support, but how many real support networks are available?

Can't wait for General Conference! God bless you and my best to Jean as she goes homeward. We'll keep her in our prayers.

In Christ's love,

Marge Ragona

mfr

April 22, 1979

Rev. Elder Troy Perry
Moderator
Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard #304
Los Angeles, California 90029

Dear Troy:

I recognize that this probably is in Freda Smith's territory, and am sending her a copy of this letter, but also wanted to let you know about it.

I have been receiving letters (and a monthly tithe) from a member of our church Richard Matera who is in the Army in Germany. Richard is a very serious-minded Christian who seeks to become a deacon in our church when he returns from the service.

He has been involved with a group of gays, in providing a contact point and information center, for service people in Germany. They have provided themselves with a post office box and a private club when gays meet to socialize at least once a month.

He has heard that there is an MCC group meeting in Frankfurt and/or Karlsruhe. Do you have knowledge of any such groups? He has also told us that if none exist, he would be interested in being the person around which such a group could form. Is the fellowship interested in writing him about that. His address is: Richard Matera, Co A 8 Aviation Bn., APO New York 09111. The group in Karlsruhe can be reached at "English-Speaking Gays", Attn: Richard, Postfach 6526, 7500 Karlsruhe 1, West Germany.

Thanks for your help. See you on or about May 3, when I'll be in California.

In Christ's love,

Marge Ragona, Pastor
MCC Providence

April 22, 1979

Rev. Elder Troy Perry
Moderator
Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard W304
Los Angeles, California 90029

Dear Troy:

I recognize that this probably is in Freda Smith's territory, and am sending her a copy of this letter, but also wanted to let you know about it.

I have been receiving letters (and a monthly tithe) from a member of our church Richard Masters who is in the Army in Germany. Richard is a very serious-minded Christian who needs to become a deacon in our church when he returns from the service.

He has been involved with a group of gays, in providing a contact point and information center, for service people in Germany. They have provided themselves with a post office box and a private club when gays meet to socialize at least once a month.

He has heard that there is an MOC group meeting in Frankfurt and/or Karlsruhe. Do you have knowledge of any such group? He has also told us that if none exist, he would be interested in being the person around which such a group could form. In the fellowship interested in writing him about that. His address is: Richard Masters, Co A Aviation BN, APO New York 09111. The group in Karlsruhe can be reached at "Rashid-Speaking Gays", Attn: Richard, Postfach 6226, 7500 Karlsruhe 1, West Germany.

Thanks for your help. See you on or about May 3, when I'll be in California.

In Christ's love,

Marge Hagood, Pastor
MOC Providence

April 22, 1979

Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson
Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit
45 East Adams Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Dear Nancy:

As you may know I have been attending the COWIM (Commission on Women in Ministry of the National Council of Churches) meetings for the past year or so.

Enclosed is my letter to Troy reporting on the latest one. Prior to this, with Nancy Krody's help, we wrote a resolution which the COWIM parent body, Professional Church Leadership, presented to the National Council at their October meeting. The resolution dealt with the Briggs business in California (Proposition #6). I reported to Troy on that, and if I can find a copy of my letter to him about it (I must have six months worth of filing in my file basket!) I'll send you a xerox.

It was good to see you at Eastern Ministers' Conference, and I look forward to your being in the East again at District Conference. My best to Paula.

In Christ's love,

Marge Ragona

mfr

April 22, 1979

Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Moderator
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan
Community Churches
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard #304
Los Angeles, Calif. 90029

Dear Troy:

I attended the Commission on Women in Ministry Conference of the National Council of Churches on March 21, 22, and 23 at Marriottsville, Maryland.

As you know from my last letter, I meet with the Task Force on Gay Issues. This time a great deal of our effort dealt with planning the "Lesbian, Gay and Christian" Conference at Kirkridge, Pennsylvania, which six members of COWIM were to act as steering committee and facilitators. An additional area of importance was the upcoming (in October) workshop and consciousness raising session on Human Sexuality which the Task Force will be facilitating for COWIM's next meeting.

As you are probably aware, human sexuality is a heavy issue for most Christian groups. For a group of women ministers, many of whom are from fairly traditional-based groups, it is a particularly heavy issue.

Our previous two meetings were mainly political in nature. This one, however, dealt with a predominantly women-only issue -- which grew out of the women feeling somewhat left out of the "Gay and Christian" conference at Kirkridge last summer. The Kirkridge conference for women only was held right after the COWIM meeting, and we went directly there. 32 women from all over the eastern U.S. and Canada were present. A woman from Toronto MCC was also there. I think we did a good job of presenting MCC as an alternative to the mainline churches for gay women. (Despite its sometime sexism in language, MCC is a darn sight further along than many, many churches!) Nancy Krody was there and sent regards to you.

I act as advisor to Rhode Island College's Sex Information and Referral Service and am our local sexuality expert! I have access through the college to a number of excellent films and some workshop materials which I am making available to COWIM.

April 22, 1979

Rev. Rikar Troy Perry, Moderator
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan
Community Churches
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard
Los Angeles, Calif. 90029

Dear Troy:

I attended the Commission on Women in Ministry Conference at
the National Council of Churches on March 21, 22, and 23 at
Hartsville, Maryland.

As you know from my last letter, I went with the Task Force
on Gay Issues. This time a great deal of our effort dealt with
planning the "Gay and Christian" Conference at Kirk-
ridge, Pennsylvania, which was a session of COMW. There were no
other sessions and facilities. An additional area of
importance was the upcoming (in October) workshop and conference
next relating session on Women's Ministry which the Task Force
will be facilitating for COMW's next meeting.

As you are probably aware, human sexuality is a heavy issue
for most Christian groups. For a group of women ministers, many
of whom are from fairly traditional-based groups, it is a par-
ticularly heavy issue.

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over the eastern U.S. and Canada were present. A woman from
Toronto MCC was also there. I think we did a good job of pre-
sented MCC as an alternative to the mainline churches for gay
women. (Despite its sometime sexism in language, MCC is a
dark night further along than many, many churches.) Nancy Brady
was there and sent regards to you.

I met as adviser to Rhode Island College's Sex Information and
Referral Service and am our local sexuality expert. I have access
through the college to a number of excellent films and some
workshop materials which I am making available to COMW.

I am sending a copy of this along to Nancy Wilson and am enclosing the costs of my attending the COWIM meeting. I paid my own way to Kirkridge (since it was also a chance to get away from it all.)

I think we do good things at COWIM. Many of the women tell me of their good rapport with the MCC minister in their home cities, and I think respect for us as a functioning Christian church is growing, particularly among women ministers. COWIM also helps to keep the gay issue alive among mainline churches through our participation in the Task Force on Gay Issues. The educational benefit of our participation in things like the Human Sexuality workshop cannot be undervalued. Our presence raises consciousness constantly.

I think after the October meeting someone else needs to be chosen to represent MCC there, since I am hoping to be called to either the deep south or southwest. Dee seems to be too busy, and Jennie Bull seems a good substitute, since she lives in nearby Maryland fairly close to where most of the meetings are held.

It was good to see you at Eastern Ministers' Conference, and as I said in my other letter, I'll be visiting out there in early May. See you then, if you're around.

In Christ's love,

Marge Ragona

mfr

April 22, 1979

Rev. Elder Carol Cureton
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan
Community Churches
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard #304
Los Angeles, Calif. 90029

Dear Carol:

Enclosed is a copy of the statement of expenses for my last COWIM meeting at Marriottsville, Maryland. I wrote a report of it to Troy, and have sent the original with my report.

Gloria Audet remarked to you at Eastern Ministers' Conference that there is still one of these outstanding from last March (1978) which has not been paid. I sent that one to you in August or September, because I really was not planning to bill the Fellowship, but pay it out of my own pocket. It turned out that I never made enough money to be able to do that, and had to send the bill in. It has not been paid. Northeast District originally laid out the money, and they really need it in order to operate.

Providence MCC laid out the money for this one, and if we don't get paid, something won't here either -- like the rent or our tithes. Money is very tight right now. Can you expedite??

I sent all the verification with the statement, and don't have anything to prove that I went other than what I sent in. I believe I sent the original bill to Jim Sandmire's attention.

See you in a little more than a week -- where has time gone??

In Christ's love,

Marge Ragona

mfr

Marge Ragone

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See you in a little more than a week -- where has time gone?

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Dear Carol:

Los Angeles, Calif. 90029
3300 Santa Monica Boulevard #204
Community Churches
University Fellowship of Metropolitan
Rev. Elder Carol Carson

April 22, 1979

March 8, 1979

Rev. Elder Troy Perry
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan
Community Churches
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard
Los Angeles, Calif. 90029

Dear Troy:

The enclosed would cover the contingency should Jesus Christ himself manage not to get himself licensed to the Metropolitan Community Church ministry. At least he would be able to preach for us!

We are looking forward to Conference, and to seeing everyone again. Please don't condemn us to New England without a conference for two years -- please!

Love you!

In Christ's love,

Rev. Marge Ragona

mfr



Metropolitan Community Church Of Detroit

45 E. Adams
Detroit, Michigan 48226
963-1568

May 7-79

Dear Marge:

Thanks for sending a copy of
your letter to Tray to me. That
helps keep me updated. I'm
all for involving as many MCC
women as possible in COWM.

Thanks for the work you've done -

It was good to see you at
Conference - I hope you don't



have to feel that barrier between
us. Thanks for having the guts to
tell me.

Look forward to seeing you in
L.A. My love to MCC Providence -

Love + Peace -

Nanny White

November 2, 1978

Rev. Elder Troy Perry
Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches
5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304
Los Angeles, Calif. 90029

Dear Troy:

It was good seeing you at Baltimore last week, and I particularly want to thank you for the remarks about "coming back" when licensing says "NO." Providence and I are good examples of what happens when a church that was considered hopeless and a pastor too tough to give in against the odds get together. We aint great, but we're surviving -- and our people are loving, and giving.

Anyway -- purpose of this letter is to let you know what went on at the COWIM (National Council of Churches Commission on Women in Ministry) meeting.

First off, MCC acts as advisor to the Task Force on Gay Issues at COWIM. With the help of Nancy Kredy, we were able to put together a resolution which the meeting passed denouncing the Briggs Initiative in California, and calling upon the National Council of Churches to also pass such a resolution at their meeting today and tomorrow in N.Y., and to release both resolutions to the press as quickly as possible. The COWIM resolution was taken back to N.Y. and submitted to their public relations department for immediate release. I do not know if it has appeared in the press as yet.

We also passed resolutions against the denial of Iliff admission to an MCC exhorter, and one against Garrett for its dismissal of two gay students. These resolutions resulted in letters going out from COWIM to the two seminaries.

Further, MCC had the opportunity to present the worship service at the meeting on Thursday evening. Each denomination has an opportunity to present such a service. It was our turn. Delores Berry, Asst. Pastor of Baltimore and I prepared a very simple service. It included a Eucharist. There was a question of the appropriateness of this in an ecumenical group, since some of the denominations represented are non-sacramental (Quakers and Unitarians, for example.) I pointed out that the MCC service would not be representative without a eucharist, and that this was based on many gay people's experience of being denied access to the communion table, hence MCC's provision for the eucharist at every service. They were accepting of this.

Since both the Quaker and the Unitarian ministers there were people I was close to, I spoke to them about the Eucharist and they were not only amenable, but given the reason were happy to participate. We sang "Our God is Like an Eagle;" I used the scripture from Joshua 22, about the setting up of a separate altar, which ends with the verse in the Living Bible: "...this altar shall be a witness between us that the Lord God is our God, too." My brief meditation outlined the history and growth of MCC, and the involvement of women ministers in the Fellowship. We sang "Just As I Am," Rev. Berry and I celebrated as simple communion and we had them pair off and pray with each other (which turned out to be the hardest part for many of them-- it seems they never pray personally with or for people), and we ended with the simple hymn "Pass It On." They loved it. We saw some of the gay women ministers in tears, and there was a greater acceptance of us as ministers, not just as people, following the service.

There has always been a question at COWIM about the preparation of MCC ministers. They are very status oriented. Most of them are graduates of mainline seminaries. They are middle class and upper middle class women who have paid their dues to the system. Many MCC women ministers, especially, have not. This time, especially with the non-acceptance of the MCC exhorter at Iliff, they were better able to understand the difficulties of MCC ministers getting the formal education readily available to others, especially people who are willing to stay closeted -- and the lack of availability of same when people cannot or do not choose to.

Many of the women ministers have contact with the MCC minister in their cities, especially when the MCC person belongs to a ministerial association. I heard good things about George McDermott, Stan Harris, Larry Uhrig, Ken Martin, Rhea Miller; only one person in MCC whom they had met was not favorably received and he will remain nameless.

At my previous COWIM meeting, I had noticed the fear among the gay women. This was particularly evident at that meeting because it was a joint meeting with the Professional Leadership Commission (of which COWIM is a division). PLC are all men in the mainline denominations, so that there is a double whammy. These are the men who help choose the ministers for their denominations. The women are beholden to them for their jobs. (It's like an all-male Credentials Committee meeting with the all-female ministers coming up for licensing, I guess.) The men are all supposedly straight, as well, and the women were afraid that someone would tumble in this all-women's group. It was a very heavy meeting and in the Task Force on Gay Issues the main topic was how fearful the women were of these men. There was not as much fear present at this meeting, mainly because there were no men present.

Growing out of the Task Force meeting was the feeling that the Gay and Christian conference at Kirkridge, Pa. did not meet the need of Christian lesbians and lesbian-feminists. It was, apparently, heavily male and very non-inclusive. To counteract it a Gay, Lesbian and Christian conference has been planned for April of next year -- also at Kirkridge. I am part of the planning for that conference, and publicity will go out to MCC's in N.E. District, Mid-Atlantic District, and Great Lakes District. It will also go to New Ways Ministry and Dignity (to include gay Catholics), and to COWIM members. The planners are meeting in N.Y.

At Mother Thunder Mission (which is an Episcopal feminist group) in January to complete planning and I expect to be at that. They are aware of the work MCC is doing in the area of inclusive language and liturgy, and I am very impressed with how much further along on this we are, since I was handed the Mother Thunder communion liturgy and it is still heavily male pronounced, except for the Godhead.

Women in the mainline denominations have not given up the fight for inclusivity. I would hope that we would not either. It is one of the things that they respect us heavily for, and it gives us a talking point at COWIM meetings. Also, of course, our large number of women ministers is a definite plus for us.

The next COWIM meeting is in March, also at Marriottsville, but then they are planning to move them, mainly because it is expensive and hard to get to for many of the minority women who would like to attend. There is talk of making it in some urban area. I hope not. Somehow when one works daily in the inner city it is a relief to get out to a place like Marriottsville, and I would hope the minority women would make the effort to change their surroundings. Delores Berry fell in love with the countryside and the place, and I think it was a good experience for her to be there. She used it as a retreat, and I do too. It often is the only vacation I take and I would hate for it to be in just one more inner city.

My perception is that they see MCC as growing up. It has only been 10 years. We are upstarts, but we seem to be hanging in and continuing to grow and mature. They like that.

My expenses are enclosed. MCC Providence paid for it this time, the District for it last time. I understand we have not been reimbursed as yet -- and that's my fault. I did not ask for the reimbursement promptly, mainly because I was going to try not to bill the Fellowship, but I was not able to come up with the money to reimburse them myself. This time I am submitting my expenses promptly. Dee Jackson tells me it took a year for her to be reimbursed when she went.

So far, Nancy Wilson, Dee Jackson, Jenny Bull and I have represented the Fellowship. I have worked with some of these COWIM women in Boston and New York and really enjoy going and relate well to them. I appreciate the chance to represent the Fellowship and am interested in the intellectual side of what goes on in the meetings -- particularly the discussions on inclusivity etc. and feel I can add something to it. I would hope to get the chance to attend again.

Thanks for your interest.

In Christ,

Marge Ragona

At Mother's Mission (which is an Episcopal feminist group) in January to complete planning and I expect to be at that. They are aware of the work MOC is doing in the area of inclusive language and liturgy, and I am very impressed with how much further along on this we are, since I was headed the Mother's Mission community liturgy and it is still heavily male pronounced, except for the Goodness.

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Thanks for your interest.

In Christ,

Marge Hagena

from the desk of ...

CAROL CURETON

2-26-79

Marge -

I am so swamped that I really don't have time to answer your letter, but I did want to say Thank You for sharing. I feel like I know you better than I did. (I hope to be able to share a bit of myself with you soon, too.)

Just want you to know now that the material you sent won't be wasted - promise.

Love,

Carol

February 8, 1979

Rev. Elder Carol Cureton
UFMCC - Fellowship Offices
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard #304
Los Angeles, Calif. 90029

Dear Carol:

Enclosed is a copy of my exhorter training proposal. I wrote this more than 2 years ago and gave it to Jeff Pulling, Nancy Wilson and others at the General Conference in Denver. As a matter of fact, Jeff and I had a meeting about it then. I can see places where some of the ideas (proficiency testing, etc.) have crept into things coming from MCAC and Samaritan. However, I find that the supports and encouragements for prospective ministers have not. (As a matter of fact, I am about to propose a Ministerial Alliance system for both ministers and exhorters (as associate members of it) to help provide some of those supports).

The rationale is this: In some districts exhorters abound, ministers abound, and the need seems to be to weed out. N.E. District, and probably others as well are still short of qualified people. We have seminaries galore, but do not draw these people into MCC -- probably because of the threat of their losing jobs in the mainline churches. Sometimes when we do draw upon these people, the results from them is disastrous. Mainline and MCC do not always translate.

Our district will be bringing three exhorters to the DRC. Two of them have been exhorters for at least 3 or more years and one is now a Worship Coordinator. The other is a WC and was once a licensed minister. We have no one at present from an exhortership program at our largest churches who will be ready for licensing next year. There will be one minister from another denomination, and that's all I can foresee, at least from up north here. Yet, we have at least 3 possible study groups which we could start if we had the people: One at Burlington, Vt., one at Portland, Maine; another at Springfield, Mass. We have no one to send either minister or exhorter. We have had 2 churches without ministers for over 6 months, and another church in the district went without a pastor for nearly two years. We have a personnel shortage and it is diminishing our capacity to operate at our best level. If I were to leave Providence, I honestly do not know where we would get a replacement, considering that most of our churches are too poor to really do a wide-spread pastoral search.

February 8, 1979

Rev. Elder Carol Overton
URMCC - Fellowship Offices
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard #304
Los Angeles, Calif. 90029

Dear Carol:

Enclosed is a copy of my expert training proposal. I wrote this more than 2 years ago and gave it to Jeff Trilling, Nancy Wilson and others at the General Conference in Denver. As a matter of fact, Jeff and I had a meeting about it then. I can see places where some of the ideas (proficiency testing, etc.) have crept into things coming from MOC and Seminary. However, I find that the supports and encouragements for prospective ministers have not. (As a matter of fact, I am about to propose a Ministerial Alliance system for both ministers and exhorters (as associate members of it) to help provide some of those supports).

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I currently have five people who carry the title "Exhorter." That does not mean that I have five potential ministers for MCC. What I have is 2 potential ministers for MCC and three lay ministers, who can and do minister to this congregation -- not as deacons -- but in a preaching ministry. This is and has been for many Christian traditions a valid and valuable ministry. Exhorters are a vital part in the growth process of MCC and in underpinning our whole program. I am the only minister in this district who dares become ill or take a vacation (well, maybe Dee Jackson can, too). But all the other churches depend on their ministers to do the whole show. If Ed Hougen were ill for a month, no one would be available unless his wife (also a minister) could do it. New York has all but died because there were no exhorters to hold the thing together until they could get a new pastor. Hispana is learning, and they now are enlisting two exhorters, to permit Jose to be available for outreach, and yet permit the church to continue to exist.

Second thought: I am disturbed by what I identify as an elitist/agist/sexist trend on MCAC. The recent idea proposed by Samaritan and them to limit the exhortership (intern ministry) only to those in their last year of their education (and no level is spelled out). Does that mean last year of an AA (60 hours), last year of a B.A. or B.Div. or of seminary? If it means seminary it will generally mean male, white, young, and closeted people. If it means any of the others it means a wider potential. However, we run the risk of excluding valuable older members of the gay community, who have learned to survive, kept their faith alive, and may have some ways of doing both to contribute to the rest of our community. I do not want to see us fall into the danger of penalizing those who are "out" and rewarding the "closeted." And I suspect that this is what will happen. Too many young ministers in this district were both coming out and trying to start MCC's, and it meant great emotional turmoil. To be 23, trying to minister to others, and deal with your own coming out process is an inhumane task. Think about it.

As you know, I had candidated for N.Y. I have decided (like Cal Coolidge) "If I am asked I will not run; if I am elected I will not serve." Seriously, it is in too bad shape. I have just hauled one church out of the ash pit and it is too soon to try it again. Oh, for a church which is in good shape and whose pastor has moved along to better things. I hope Providence will be in that condition when I leave and will call someone who could possibly broaden our outreach. (a male, for example), where I could go to a church 90% male and broaden theirs, without sending all the guys off in tears. To take N.Y. would be masochism of the highest order and Sadie-Maisie was never my style! Senility may be catching up with me (I will be 50 this birthday) but I ain't stupid!

Pray that one day this unreconstructed Southern Baptist canescape from God's "frozen chosen," I long for the warmth of the South (spent 12 years in New Orleans). Three years in New England is toooooo long! The district is becoming more funereal every day. God save the church from the Puritans!

Be on the lookout for two good things coming from N.E. Rev. John Kuiper, a Reformed Church minister who is now taking on Albany, Adorable little Dutchman (born in Netherlands) with cute accent to match and personality plus.

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John just discovered MCC and has been enlisted to work MCC Good News at Albany. He has been the RCA's young Turk and is going to be quite a guy.

Also look for a young black man (23) Carlton Cornish, beautifully educated, handsome tall young man, bearded, gentle, and quite charismatic. He was studying for the Roman Catholic priesthood at Providence College. He will be something else in a year or two. Pray that both of these young men keep on keepin' on and that we see the fruits of their labors as they grow with us.

Third thought: Jean said something about Samaritan looking for teachers for extension courses. I would be very interested. I have a N.T. course on tape with text, xerox materials, and questionnaires which I could put together for any church that would like to use the materials. It could be exhorter training or for personal study by groups or individuals. Also working on same for church history. Will have D.T. course by next spring. Isolated exhorters and churches who are small and have only W.C.'s could maybe use this stuff, too. I love to teach. Did it for 8 years in N.O., and meanwhile taught teachers to teach as D.R.E.

Jean also mentioned something about Christian Ed. Commission. Seems I applied for that 4 years back, but heard nothing. As a matter of fact, Roy Birchard suggested my name. I have a long history in Christian Education with Southern Baptists, have 60 hours in education, although my degree is in Social Science. (Tulane does not offer a degree in education.) Was American Studies major, but taught many subjects -- English, Remedial reading, Earth science, etc.

We are having an exhorter weekend miniconference here at Providence March 3 and 4, to discuss MCAC requirements, the Samaritan proposal, our own responses to them, and to do some studying in liturgy, homiletics (each is to bring a sermon), and prayer. I hope it is a good weekend for everyone.

I am working on my ordination thesis: "The Word made Flesh" dealing with our having made God male and only male, and some ideas out of semantics, linguistics, and theological language beginning with Origen and coming up to Liberation Theology. Main thought is that all words we use for God are analogies. God is to humanity as a Father is to children. God:Father::Humanity:Children or God:Humanity::Father:Child. But that is not all God is -- there are hundreds of analogies which can be so represented. All are valid, yet none are because God is still "ineffable." Have read 30 books for this thing, ranging from Origen to Tillich, and from Augustine to Mary Daly, by way of one or two basic texts in linguistics, and a number of texts dealing with sexism in language. I hope it will all work together in the end.

Enough. My best to Donna, whom I have only spoken to via Rich Robert's WAT's line. Thanks for taking care of Jean, whom I love dearly.

Live, in Christ,
(I meant love, but leave it that way!)

Marge Rogers

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(I meant love, but leave it that way)



Post Office Box 5570 - Los Angeles, California 90055

(213) 680-2111

November 22, 1977

The Reverend Marge Ragona
c/o MCC Providence
POB 1462, Annex Station
Providence, R.I. 02901

Dear Marge,

I received your letter of November 15, 1977 with the enclosed copy of the Dissolution of Holy Union. I have forwarded your order for one copy of Stan's and Frank's ordination papers to the publications department.

It's good to hear that things are going well for you. We pray that God will continue to bless and guide you and your people.

In Christ's love,

Carol

(Rev.) Carol S. Cureton, Clerk
Board of Elders

CC/



Post Office Box 5570 - Los Angeles, California 90055

February 24, 1978
(Supplement)

ELDER'S ADVISORY LETTER

RE: RESPONSIBILITIES/PRIVILEGES OF STUDY GROUPS AND MISSIONS WITH
REGARD TO "MEMBERSHIP"

- D. May Missions and Study Groups approve the license of Deacons and Exhorters?

Since approval and discipline of these lay ministers requires both a Pastor and Board of Directors, and since a study group has neither a Pastor nor an elected Board of Directors, and since a Mission has no By-Laws provision for an elected Board of Directors, the Elders conclude that Missions and Study Groups do not have the appropriate constitutional machinery for approving Deacons and Exhorters. Candidates training for the time when the Church is chartered and they may be appointed and approved officially would not be objectionable as long as the church group had the resources for training and did not use candidates for any ministerial duties requiring a duly authorized minister of the Church. Appropriate duties would include such things as member visitation, serving as an acolyte, reading during the worship services, preaching, etc. In such a situation, great care should be taken to assure that both candidates and congregations are aware that the candidates have no official By-Laws function.

(The preceding information is supplied to you pursuant to Article V.B.1.c of the By-Laws of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.)

FOR THE BOARD OF ELDERS

Carol S. Cureton
(Rev.) Carol S. Cureton
Clerk

CC/

The Reverend Troy D. Perry, Founder



Post Office Box 5570 - Los Angeles, California 90055

March 23, 1978

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

I am happy to share with you the enclosed letter from the American Civil Liberties Union Gay Rights Chapter announcing their plans to honor The Rev. Troy Perry by presenting him with the HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD for 1978. Along with the Human Rights Award, Rev. Perry will be honored by several presentations from local, county and state government officials as well as by members of our local community.

I am forwarding to you the letter from the ACLU Gay Rights Chapter, with enclosed forms, so that you and your congregation members may have the opportunity to participate in honoring this man who has worked so hard for each of us, even though you may not be able to be here in person.

If you would like the name of your Church or the name of any individual listed in the souvenir program (as either Contributor, Supporter or Benefactor), simply complete one of the enclosed forms, returning them to the ACLU Post Office Box listed on the enclosed letter. In order to meet publishing deadlines, please return these immediately.

Of course, all tax deductible donations received will go to further the work of the ACLU.

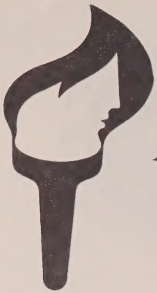
If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely in Christ,

Frank K. Zerilli
Executive Secretary

FKZ/
Enclosures

The Reverend Troy D. Perry, Founder



ACLU GAY RIGHTS CHAPTER

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
633 S. Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90005 Telephone (213) H-O-M-O-S-E-X

PETER THOMAS JUDGE
Chapter President

March 6, 1978

Dear Friend:

You may have learned by now that the Reverend Troy Perry is going to receive the HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD for 1978. The dinner in his honor is being hosted by the Gay Rights Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

The dinner will take place on April 29 at the Hollywood Palladium where approximately 2,500 people are expected to attend. We believe this dinner will be the biggest banquet for the gay rights movement ever.

Among the many aspects of this enormous event is the souvenir program which all in attendance will receive. The program will feature articles by and about Reverend Perry and the M.C.C. as well as articles about the ACLU.

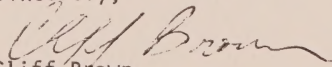
We are asking that you show your support at this time by purchasing a column line in the souvenir program. There will be three categories of sponsorship pages:

CONTRIBUTOR	\$10
SUPPORTER	\$20
BENEFACTOR	\$30

A person making a donation in any one of the three categories will be honored by having his or her name listed on the corresponding page. (The name of a non-profit organization such as the M.C.C. of Boston may be substituted.)

Enclosed please find a packet of five contribution forms. Each represents one column line. We realize that five may not be enough for your congregation, in which case all you have to do is supply the same information requested on the form on a plain sheet of paper with the corresponding check. Our printing deadline is April 15. All listings should be in my hands no later than the 16th to insure inclusion. Please return the top receipt stub indicating series number with all white copies (sold) or white and yellow copies (unsold) to the Gay Rights Chapter post office box.

Sincerely,


Cliff Brown

ACLU G.R.C.
P.O. Box 480029
Los Angeles, Ca. 90048



Post Office Box 5570 - Los Angeles, California 90055

February 24, 1978
(Supplement)

ELDER'S ADVISORY LETTER

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REGARD TO "MEMBERSHIP"

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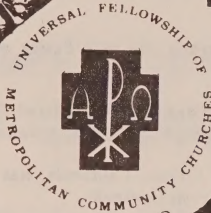
FOR THE BOARD OF ELDERS

Carol S. Cureton
(Rev.) Carol S. Cureton
Clerk

CC/

The Reverend Troy D. Perry, Founder

KEEPING IN TOUCH



FEBRUARY 1978

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF ELDERS

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

The Board of Elders is happy to announce that the 9th General Conference of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the parent Church, as well as our denomination, will be held August 13-19, 1979, in Los Angeles, California. The Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles will be the site of this historical conference. Full information about the conference programs, as well as the cost of hotel rooms, will be forthcoming in the next few months.

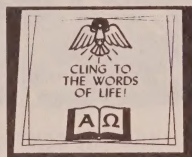
The Board of Institutional Ministry (USA) Executive Director, Rev. Robert Arthur, has announced the formation of the Canadian Board of Institutional Ministry, directed by Rev. JoAnne Monti. The address is: U.F.M.C.C. Canadian Board of Institutional Ministry, Rev. JoAnne Monti, 2322 Lincoln Street West, No. 5, Montreal, Quebec, H3H 1J4, Canada.

The Australasia District Conference has announced the election of Rev. Arthur Cazeault as the new District Coordinator for that area. Rev. Cazeault has served in the Universal Fellowship for the past five years. He was founding pastor of MCC Providence, Rhode Island and has served as an associate minister on the staff of MCC Atlanta, Georgia. Rev. Cazeault has served for the past two years as Pastor of MCC Melbourne, Australia. The new District Office Address is: Rev. Arthur Cazeault, District Coordinator, 62 West Toorak Road, South Yarra, Victoria, Australia 3141.

The Board of Elders was delighted to have Rev. Jose Von Buhler, Church Extension Officer for Great Britain, attending the Coordinators' and Elders meeting. A full report on his visit will be carried in *In Unity*.

Keeping In Touch requests that all our Church bodies remember Rev. Robert Wolfe, Coordinator of Church Extension in Canada, in your prayers. Rev. Wolfe was operated on in December, and a cancer removed from his bladder. The U.F.M.C.C. does believe in healing and we know God is able. Besides serving as Coordinator of Church Extension in Canada, Rev. Wolfe is Pastor of MCC Vancouver, British Columbia.

Sunday, January 15, 1978, was the date of the dedication of the new facility of the MCC in the Valley, North Hollywood, California. Over 300 people joined with Pastor Randy Cypher for this special event. On hand for the dedication were numerous MCC clergy, several politicians, including a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, a California State Senator, a member of the California State Assembly, and members of the Los Angeles City Council. The five-year-old congregation has been meeting for the last three years in a rented, converted auto garage. The new property purchased by the Church is appraised at \$200,000.00.



Rev. Jeri Ann Harvey, Pastor of MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, Texas, reports that a cross was burned on the lawn of the Church January 5. The local police could find no fingerprints after the fire. The next day the local KKK started running a phone message concerning the "queer" Church in Houston, giving in their message the name and address of our Church and praising Anita Bryant. (A full story on Houston will be carried in a future issue of *In Unity*. The FBI has entered the case to see if any of the MCC members' civil rights have been violated.) Speaking of Ms. Bryant, Rev. Joseph Gilbert, Pastor of MCC Miami, has written Fellowship Headquarters requesting that we help educate Ms. Bryant by sending her newspaper clippings about heterosexual assault, child abuse, rape, and other strange non-gay behavior. Please send your clippings to: Ms. Anita Bryant, c/o Protect America's Children, POB 402745, Miami, Florida 33140.

As many of you are aware, the Commission on Innovative Ministries has recently sent to local Church bodies of this Fellowship a survey questionnaire concerning chemical dependency. You were asked to return the questionnaires to Rev. Buff Fisher in Tucson, Arizona. Please note the address given in the letter was incorrect. The correct address is: Rev. Buff Fisher, POB 27628, Tucson, AZ 85726.

Our denomination is extremely fortunate to have many young people currently attending top-rate Universities and Seminaries in the countries where we have Churches. Most of the students have been able to receive scholarships or grants to pay for their schooling. However, this last week, Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry received word that one of our ministry students who is attending a seminary and working on his Doctor of Ministries degree, needs \$400.00 to pay some educational cost by the end of January if he is to remain in school. Rev. Perry is sure that there are some members of our Churches who would like to help this brother out. If you are able to help, please send your check today to: Scholarship Fund, c/o UFMCC, POB 5570, Los Angeles, CA, 90055.

THE CHURCH IN TRANSITION:

The following Churches in our Fellowship are seeking Pastors:

Good Shepherd Parish MCC, Chicago, Illinois
MCC, Greensboro, North Carolina
Christ the King MCC, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
MCC, Dallas, Texas
Agape MCC, Fort Worth, Texas
MCC Toronto, Canada

Rev. Clifford Conners is the new Pastor of MCC Sydney, Australia.

Ms. Rita Wanstrom has been appointed Worship Coordinator of MCC of the Ozarks, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

MCC Study Group, Fresno, California, has a new Worship Coordinator, the Rev. Steven Quesnell.

Rev. Jim Dykes is the new Pastor of West Bay MCC, Santa Monica, California.

MCC Jacksonville, Florida has called Rev. Lee J. Carlton as their new Pastor.

Revs. Angie Umbertino and Karen Wheeler are being installed at the end of January as Co-Pastors of MCC Akron, Ohio.

Rev. Howard J. Gaass is the new Pastor of MCC Cincinnati, Ohio.

Rev. Keith Davis is the interim Pastor of MCC Columbia, South Carolina.

EASTERN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

Please remember that the Eastern Ministers' Conference will take place in Avon Park, Florida, March 9-12, 1978. If you have not registered, do so now. This meeting is open to licensed and ordained ministers and their significant others ONLY.

THE TWENTY TOP CHURCHES IN TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR DECEMBER ARE:

1. Los Angeles	\$6516.90
2. North Hollywood	5015.10
3. Dallas	4248.00
4. Washington, D.C.	4118.00
5. Chicago	3603.20
6. San Diego	3433.30
7. Houston	3138.80
8. Kansas City	3127.70
9. San Francisco	3109.20
10. St. Louis	2976.60
11. Wichita	2122.20
12. San Jose	2120.70
13. Denver	2016.80
14. Portland	2008.60
15. Detroit	1990.90
16. Sacramento	1718.30
17. Fort Lauderdale	1684.10
18. Tampa	1605.70
19. Cincinnati	1525.00
20. Twin Cities (Minneapolis/St. Paul)	1361.50



Post Office Box 5570 - Los Angeles, California 90055

February 24, 1978

ELDER'S ADVISORY LETTER

RE: RESPONSIBILITIES/PRIVILEGES OF STUDY GROUPS AND MISSIONS WITH
REGARD TO "MEMBERSHIP"

The Board of Elders has received inquiries from several church bodies asking for clarification of the duties and responsibilities of church members in missions and study groups in view of the redefining of church membership at the last General Conference to allow those church bodies to elect observers (study groups) and voting representatives (missions) to Fellowship and District Conferences. In addition, the Elders have noted different practices among some missions and study groups as to whether or not the action of General Conference empowers them to elect Pastors and Boards of Directors and to approve the appointment of Deacons and Exhorters. In view of these inquiries and the confusion of practice, we feel it incumbent upon us to provide the following interpretation of the Fellowship By-Laws until the General Conference can consider the matter fully and render their decision.

1. WHAT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE APPROVED

- A. Did the action of General Conference effectively destroy the differences among Study Groups, Missions and Chartered Churches?

The answer is no. Article V, Government, organization and officers of the Fellowship By-Laws in Section A, paragraph 5 defines a local church as a chartered Church listed in the minutes of General Conference. Paragraph 6 clearly states that the right to control all of its internal affairs by the members of the congregation is vested in the members of chartered Churches. This would, subject to the provisions of the Fellowship By-Laws, the General Conference and local church by-laws, suggest that members of missions and study groups exert partial rather than total control of their internal affairs.

Section D of Article V indicates that Pastors are elected by local church bodies. In this case it is clear that the By-Laws are referring to local chartered churches only since Article VI.A, B & C state that the District Coordinator will appoint a worship coordinator for study groups; that the mission will appoint a Fellowship minister as Interim Pastor with the approval of the District Coordinator and the Board of Home Missions or proper Fellowship Board; and that only a Chartered Church will elect, without other district approval, their pastor.

The Reverend Troy D. Perry, Founder

It is further clear to us that Article V, Section D speaks only of local chartered Churches when referring to elected Boards of Directors since one of the duties of such a Board is to serve as a pulpit committee to choose qualified candidates for election as Pastor (which can happen only in a chartered church. Article VI.A & B do not mention Boards of Directors for Study Groups and Missions.

Article VI.F also provides for different forms of discipline for Study Groups than for chartered Churches and Missions -- again implying different Fellowship standing for the Study Group at least.

The newly revised Article IX, Church Meetings, while providing for representation for study groups and missions retains the concept that these bodies do not have all the powers of a local chartered Church. This is certainly implied in the fact that the Study Group observers have voice but no vote and that study groups and missions elect only one representative while chartered churches may elect more representatives if membership exceeds one hundred members.

On the basis of the foregoing analysis, the Elders conclude that it was the intent of the Atlanta General Conference when writing the present Fellowship By-Laws and remained the intent of the Denver General Conference when revising the By-Laws that distinct differences in internal government and in powers, responsibilities and duties be preserved among chartered churches, missions and study groups. These differences were to be preserved as a way for study groups and missions to grow gradually in size, experience and maturity so that they might receive a charter as a church when they were ready for full self government. We recognize that some study groups and missions may never reach sufficient size for Charter, but it remains for the General Conference to deal with these special cases at a future conference if so desired.

B. What are the privileges and responsibilities of membership as described in the By-Laws?

We interpret membership to have two dimensions within these By-Laws, i.e. a Fellowship dimension and a local church body dimension. The Fellowship dimension is to provide training in membership and a certain voice in all Fellowship meetings. Among the rights associated with this type of membership are:

- 1) The right to a voice for representatives of all local church bodies at Fellowship and District Conferences and the right to vote for such representatives of missions and Chartered Churches at those conferences.
- 2) The right of members of all local church bodies to elect their representatives to Fellowship and District Conferences.
- 3) The right of members to meet annually to transact such congregational business as is appropriate to their church body. This includes at least the right to hear and approve or disapprove reports and to suggest, receive and approve or disapprove courses of action for the future including budgets and to elect Fellowship and district Conference representatives.

The local church body dimension of membership changes with the development of the Church body toward chartered church status. The rights of membership described above adhere to study groups. Members of Missions and Chartered Churches also have these rights. In addition, Article VI.B suggests that members of Missions may elect their interim Pastor. However, since the District Coordinator and the Board of Home Missions or appropriate Fellowship body must approve their selection, this implies a close working relationship with these officers in selecting appropriate candidates. Chartered churches have full control of their own selection of Pastor and Board of Directors and all internal affairs in accordance with the provisions of the By-Laws.

- C. How may members be qualified so that a membership role may be developed?

Article III.C.2 defines the rite of membership to include the following:

1. All prospective members must be baptized Christians.
2. All prospective members must complete classes for instruction in the beliefs and doctrines of the Church.
3. All prospective members must either present a letter of transfer from a recognized Christian body or affirm their faith.
4. A rite of attaining membership must be conducted by the Worship Coordinator or minister before the local congregation at any regular worship service.

These provisions are the same for Study Groups, Missions and Chartered Churches.

Article III provides, in section A, for a review of Church membership annually by the Board of Directors to remove inactive members from the active role according to a definition of member in good standing. As the section is phrased presently, it applies to chartered churches only. We would assume the annual congregational meeting of the mission and study group could empower, with the approval of the Board of Home Missions, the worship coordinator or interim pastor and/or the interim Board of Directors to use the same procedure for the local congregation.

Article VI.B indicates Friends may be accepted by "local church bodies." The term "local church bodies" usually refers to Study Groups, Missions and Chartered Churches and we would so interpret it in this section.

Article VI.C provides for discipline by the Board of Directors of a "local church". The designation "local church" in the By-Laws usually refers to a Chartered Church and we would so interpret it in this section. Again, we believe the annual congregational meeting of a study group and mission could empower, with the approval of the Board of Home Missions, the worship coordinator or interim Pastor and/or the interim Board of Directors to apply disciplinary action against members who are guilty of unbecoming conduct or disloyalty.

(The preceding information is supplied to you pursuant to Article V.B.1.c of The By-Laws of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

FOR THE BOARD OF ELDERS

Carol S. Cureton
(Rev.) Carol S. Cureton
Clerk

cc/



MEMO

December 22, 1978

To: Chairpersons and Members, UFMCC Boards, Commissions and Committees
Laity and Clergy of the UFMCC

From: Carol Cureton
Clerk, Board of Elders

RE: Resource Packets

For a brief description of "Resource Packets" please refer to the enclosed re-print from the October- November issue of IN UNITY. If you scan the rest of the article as well, it might help you see the work of these packets from a more general perspective.

It has fallen my lot to try to communicate to you the excitement that we feel when we envision the experience and knowledge and HELP that can be shared with others if we can catalyze a healthy flow of information in our Fellowship. Of course, this concept of "Resource Packets" is not the answer to all the world's ills. It is, however, what we have to work with right now. It's not set in concrete, we can work and modify and change as the need becomes evident. For now, though, we ask your cooperation. We can all spend countless hours explaining why something won't work — we ask instead that you spend the available energy trying to make it work. The idea is that we have such talent in our churches that is yet to be shared.

We feel that the potential of the people of this Fellowship is unlimited! The need to share what they are doing is evident. Sharing our collective wisdom and experience, not forgetting the faith that is a part of that, we just might change the world. . . in fact, I think someone left us a promise like that once.

Before I try to write directly about resource packets, let me ramble for a while so that we can share, if just for this moment, some common ground from which to launch.

When we think of any type of resource, we generally think of it in terms of a means to an end. A help along the way. A guidepost to somewhere. If it is this *means* to an end, we should at least comment on the *end* so that we know where these "things" are to take us.

Where? Why to our goal of course! To spread the word—to preach the good news—to make disciples. Maybe that's it. Could our goal be to make disciples? Now we come to the more difficult definition. What is our responsibility in *making* people disciples? From the sounds of many around us we could assume that some of Christendom conceive it to be their responsibility to convince the poor unsuspecting disciples-to-be that they need not think another thought, but simply follow all the rules for behavior handed down to them throughout the centuries and somehow they'll escape the almost inevitable. That's what I've always thought of as the *rub-it-on-the-outside-and-hope-it-soaks-into-the-soul* kind of approach. Although we would intellectually abhor it, we often slip into it unawares.

There is another way. A way that seeks to recognize the basic goal for individuals as "living in union with God" which, if combined with a willing spirit, will inevitably result in a more righteous, fair, loving life. In short, people will be good to each other.

Living. I think that may be one of the keys. "Living" implies a continuing process rather than a static goal. Ed Hougen, pastor of MCC Boston, said in his ordination paper:

As a Christian church we are called to witness to a particular way of dealing with people, friend and foe alike; that way is with a reconciling love. The MEANS by which we work for justice is the END we are teaching. For the Christian faith affirms that the ends and means are one. Christ is the Way and the Truth and the Life. (IN UNITY, Dec. '78 — Jan. '79, p. 9)

The Reverend Troy D. Perry, Founder

Rev. Hougen goes on to point out that it is very tempting to take short-cuts in our work. If we do not take time to really consider our approaches, thoughtfully and prayerfully, we could easily fall back on the old power-guilt-oppression-manipulation trips that we have learned from the world/our old natures/our socialization systems. That old way says that power is based on such things as how you can force someone to do what you want by threatening to do something to them if they don't.

The new way of which we speak was articulated so well by Rev. Hougen again:

Traditional wisdom sets up the false choice of love OR power with a consequent misunderstanding of both terms. . . It is only in grasping that love is power that we truly understand the means by which we are to accomplish our purpose.

If our resources are to be one of the means toward reaching the process of living after the teachings of God revealed most fully in the life and work of Jesus, the Christ, then we must constantly remind ourselves of our purposes.

Christendom has for too long published paper upon paper catering to the old power-system-structurers. As I see it, we must assert our uniqueness here, too, as we seek to identify ways in which we can call the "new selves" of people into responsibility for their actions.

The Rev. Valarie Bouchard found the words to articulate this idea very well:

The primary task and primary mission of the Christian is to call forth the gifts of others. We are not sent into the world in order to make people good. We are sent to encourage them to do their duty. . . We know that in some cases, the reason people have resisted the Gospel is that we have gone out to make people good, to help them do their duty, to impose new burdens on them, rather than calling forth the gift which is the essence of the person.

We are to let others know that God is for them and that they can 'be'. As Paul says over and over again, we are to build up the community of God's people. We exist to help people know that in their deepest hearts, people can be what they were intended to be and can do what they were meant to do. (IN UNITY, Dec. '78 — Jan. '79)

Our resources must not be new DICTATES to force or guilt-trip people into 'being good' (which usually is translated as not doing something previously enjoyed). Granted, one of our goals is to see changed lives, but that change should be as a result of a decision on the part of the individual to respond to God, not just a surface change to appease the collective judgments of religions.

Our resources must be a revealing of the nature and will of God, so that the basic truth of that revelation can call the human spirit into contact with the Creator of that truth, that spirit and that human being. One of my favorite authors, George McDonald, reminds me that:

. . . the moment whatever goes by the name of truth comes into connection with a [person], the moment the knowledge of it affects or ought to affect his[her] sense of duty, it becomes a thing of far nobler import. A fact which in itself is of no value, becomes at once a matter of life and death—moral life and death, when a [person] has the choice, the imperative choice of being true or false concerning it. . . When the truth. . . of a thing is perceived by a [person], (s)he approaches the function of truth whence the thing came, and perceiving God by understanding what is, becomes more of a [person], more of the being (s)he was meant to be. (from CREATION IN CHRIST, Harold Shaw Publishers).

No. I'm not suggesting that if we expose the will of God on an issue clearly, suddenly everyone in the world will understand, repent and live happily ever after. But, until a person sees clearly that an action is indeed connected with God's nature/will/revelation, it is impossible to make a decision to be a part of it. One may decide to try to conform to what others say is right or wrong before understanding the 'God connection' of all of it, but one cannot choose to be 'righteous' before understanding that 'righteousness' is involved.

That's what calling the "new selves" to responsibility can mean for us. We can, if we are careful, so expose the truth/God will/Divine Nature in relationship to our lives and the issues around us that, in so doing, we can call upon the reconciled people of God to do their duty toward God and others. This is but one way of saying "Love God with all your heart" and "Love your neighbor as yourself." We can

call them and encourage them; to truly reflect God, however, we cannot MAKE them respond or just guilt-trip them.

Now, after rambling, we can say about our proposed Resource Packets that they should:

- A. Identify your particular area of concern.
- B. Indicate as clearly as possible why others who are seeking to live as God's people should be concerned, too.
- C. Try to outline various loving alternatives or approaches for people to consider in their own responses to the concerns that you've voiced. (Loving when used here does not mean just the traditional sentimental variety, but as being consistent with the nature of God as revealed to us.)

What form should they take? Various one's I'm sure, as you design them from your own perspectives and experiences.

They should be compiled for use by local church leaders, both lay and clergy. They should provide materials to help the local leaders educate their members about, and involve them in, the process of living as one of God's children.

They should contain such things as:

1. Background material to inform the leader and from which the leader can draw supporting information to pass along. This could be both original and re-printed information. (If re-printed, please secure written permission from the original author and/or publisher.)
2. One or more sample presentations for use in a "typical" group discussion setting: introductory narrative, examples, thought provoking questions, tips on responding to the most expected questions, statistics, sample material that can be distributed to the group, etc.
3. Small, but well chosen bibliography with meaningful comments about the selections chosen.
4. What ever your imagination can come up with. Be creative. If you were "out there" trying to minister and share this concern with others, what would help you?

An integral part of the task assignments for the various commissions and committees will be the preparation and compilation of information for these packets which will be made available through the Church Services Department. I will attempt to contact each individual chairperson (or ask each liaison Elder to do so) to discuss the specific topical areas that should be worked on, but please don't wait for that. You should begin now. You know the areas of most vital concern. Share them with the chairperson of your area and give the chairperson an opportunity to coordinate the efforts.

[Note: Rather than assuming that you can read my mind, let me state that I recognize that each individual chairperson should be contacted before I send this memo out. To do that, however, would result in even more lengthy delays in our work, so I ask your understanding and cooperation. Please let me know if you need more specifics before I can get to your particular correspondence.]

When do we need them? Well like every thing else, ASAP, of course. But I know that's not going to mean tomorrow. Some of the areas lend themselves to more of an immediate 'finished product' than others. We want you to take the time to do the kind of work that will really be effective, considering the kinds of things mentioned in the listing of A -- C above. We also don't want to burden you with unnecessary reports about what you're doing, but feel the need to know something of the way you intend to go about the work, too. At the very least, we need a progress report by March 1, then we'll go from there. If you have something to say before then, do.

COMMUNICATIONS

G=A=P

UFMCC OFFICES RELOCATE

The UFMCC has relocated the General Offices to 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA. To the office personnel, this is a welcome change from the old location which, according to one employee, 'lacked the basic requisites for human dignity.'

The offices on west 9th were housed in a building primarily occupied by garment industry 'sweatshops'. Inadequate plumbing and electrical facilities, unreliable elevator service (as anyone who has ever had to make the hike to the 6th floor will agree), and roaches were only a few of the difficulties encountered by the office staff. The modern new location has boosted the staff morale and, with a six year lease, provides an exciting and stable setting for the work of the UFMCC's general office personnel.

FELLOWSHIP GROWTH STRAINS EXECUTIVE OFFICES — ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES ESTABLISHED

The move is just one step in implementing the decision of the Board of Elders to establish Administrative offices with specific assignments designed to meet the growing responsibilities and priorities of the Fellowship.

When Troy Perry organized MCC-LA, no one dreamed that it would grow to include over 112 congregations in just ten short years. As the Fellowship grew the emphasis was on finding qualified people to pastor churches rather than on developing administrative systems. The Fellowship offices began in Rev. Perry's study, and, until 1975 when the Rev. Elder Richard Vincent joined the staff, the Rev. Perry and his secretary handled all the official business of the Fellowship. As the years progressed, and as the UFMCC continued its phenomenal growth, the office staff tried to adapt to meet the ever increasing and changing needs of the churches. Their efforts were not always visible. After all, how could two people keep up with what the National Council of Churches at one time called 'the fastest growing denomination in this country'.

In 1970 each of the UFMCC's nine church groups were represented at the first General Conference; today there are 112. There were only 7 ministers at that first conference (4 ordained and 3 licensed); today there are 158 professional clergy in the UFMCC.

Mix this growth with an abundance of work to be done, a shortage of experienced personnel, a burning urgency to do God's work and we can easily see the be-

by Donna J. Wade

ggings of the proverbial 'communications gap'.

One of my favorite lines from the movie 'Cool Hand Luke' is *what we have here is a failure to communicate*. Well, what we have in the UFMCC offices is a few overworked people trying to keep up with all the overworked people in the field, all of whom are dedicated to doing the best jobs they can. What seems to be bureaucratic red-tape to many in the field is often the only vehicle through which the office staff can recognize and try to meet the needs of those it is to serve. Through increased communications we will begin to see the feelings of both office and field personnel better understood.

ELDERS ADDRESS COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS

At their September 1978 meeting the Board of Elders began to address the structure of the administrative offices and the communications breakdown, and took the initial steps to resolve the difficulties. A study prepared prior to the meeting revealed that at least six full-time employees are needed to just maintain the basic functions of the offices. The current administrative staff is comprised of three persons, one of whom must be assigned full time to the switchboard. (The remaining UFMCC staff are employed in the Executive Offices with the Rev. Perry and the Rev. James Sandmire, and in the Board of Institutional Ministry (USA).

ADMINISTRATOR NAMED

The Elders are continuing to reassess the allocation of available resources in an attempt to provide more adequate staffing. The Elders will continue to function as outlined in the By-laws and will establish the priorities and the task assignments to be completed, much the same as the Board of Directors of a corporation functions. To coordinate the various office tasks and provide the support necessary for the work of the Commissions and Committees the Board of Elders has named as Administrator, the Rev. Carol Cureton. The Administrator is charged with the responsibility of fulfilling the task assignments outlined by the Board of Elders, with complete adherence to their priorities. The Administrator is responsible to the Board of Elders and must report the status of all projects and activities quarterly, or more frequently if requested.

FUNCTIONS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES DEFINED

The following comprise only a part of the tasks handled by the UFMCC administrative staff:

- * maintain listings of location, address and phone numbers for all congregations and ministers
- * maintain five major mailing lists
- * design, print and supply report forms and certificates, etc.
- * administer group insurance program
- * handle telephone calls (approx. 2000 per month)
- * maintain records of the activities and personnel of the UFMCC's 22 committees and commissions
- * compile and supply the decisions and directives of General Conference
- * publish IN UNITY (the editor would like to comment that it takes nearly 240 hours to get one 28 page issue to press and that's IF others in the Fellowship do part of the writing)
- * respond to general correspondence
- * coordinate ministers' conferences
- * even a partial listing would be incomplete without saying, as did one member of the staff, 'just being here when our people in the field need a voice and some one who cares.'

RESOURCE PACKETS ENDORSED AS COMMUNICATIONS KEY

Perhaps one of the most significant projects endorsed by the Board of Elders is that of RESOURCE PACKETS. A key to sharing the valuable information and experience of various committees, commissions, individuals and church groups the Resource Packets will contain as much information as possible about their specific subject matter. As an integral part of their task assignments, the various commissions and committees will be asked to compile information for these packets. Topics such as (but not limited to) Alcoholism, Conflict Mediation, Stewardship, Racism, Agism, Inclusive Language, Homosexuality and Scripture, Membership Classes, Holy Unions, etc., will be developed. This is not an attempt to force uniformity on MCC groups — rather, it is a way of providing various options from which the laity and clergy can choose that which best suits their local needs and circumstances. (If you are working with a commission or committee and have not heard of this concept before, please don't be upset. As we practice

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ways of improving our communications we will certainly need to practice being loving and gracious with each other, too.) We ask each of you to help — if you have information or programs, (how DO you get your social committee to work?) send a copy to the general offices along with permission to reprint. These packets will be made available through the Church Services Department.

BOARD OF ELDERS' MINUTES TO BE DISTRIBUTED

The Elders have also decided to disseminate, to each church group, the minutes from each Elders meeting. They have asked for your constructive ideas and comments about the work of our Fellowship. Correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the Board of Elders, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd, Suite 304, L.A., CA 90029. Copies of pertinent correspondence will be forwarded to each member of the Board of Elders.

COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURE EXAMINED

Some committees, which have been primarily inactive due to lack of resources, have been suspended until human and/or financial resources can be secured, i.e., the Commission on Religious Institutes, the Board of Campus Ministry, the Board of Counselors to the Board of Elders.

CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION LEADS THE WAY

The Commission on Christian Social Action has requested reorganization to help them function more effectively. The following is a portion of a memo received by the Board of Elders from R. Adam DeBaugh and the Rev.'s Claudia Vierra, Frank Murr and Sky Anderson:

At the last two General Conferences we have had two things come up in the discussions (and frequent controversies) about Christian Social Action. First are questions about what we are doing, sometimes accompanied by criticism that we are not doing enough; and secondly, brave and generous offers of help and commitments to work are made by many people. As chairpeople we have been concerned about the questions and we have tried to rely on the commitments. There lies our disappointment.

In looking at the past year, since General Conference 1977 in Denver, we have realized that much of our time has been spent in trying to find people to fill up these task forces. Each time we talk to each other it seems as though our discussion starts and ends with whether or not the North-by-North-West District has elected a member to the Men's

Task Force, or whether or not MCC of Beulahland has appointed a chair of its committee for Christian Social Action, or what ever happened to so-and-so who had said she was going to be working on a task force or committee.

Not very much has been done by the Commission on Christian Social Action over the past year. In fact the only things done by the Commission over the past year are questionnaires sent out by the Women's and Men's Task Forces (which have had very small response) and the materials published by the Washington Field Office. Many things are going on in the local level, both in local congregations and by Districts, but often we don't even hear about them.

In general we see three major problems, all of them inter-related. First, a great deal of our energies are going into trying to create, staff, and maintain a bureaucracy (task forces and committees) with very little success and productivity. Secondly, we are getting little or no response from our attempts to involve people at the local and district level. Thirdly, church leaders at the local and district levels don't seem to be taking our efforts seriously: we get no support and assistance between General Conferences and at General Conference we get complaints.

What we do recommend is a restructuring, a streamlining, and a centralization. We recommend the Commission on Christian Social Action eliminate its separate component parts, the Task Force on Women, the Task Force on Men, the Task Force on Human Rights, and the Committee on Racism. We recommend that the Commission henceforth be a single body which has as its primary thrust issues concerning women, men, racism and human rights.

We do not want this interpreted as moving away from our commitment to these four areas of concern, but rather an administrative reorganization that will consolidate our work in these four areas and enable us to work more effectively together. Commission chair Adam DeBaugh would like to remain chair of the Commission, and he would like Reverends Vierra, Murr and Anderson to remain as members of the Commission as well. In fact, each of us would continue to have oversight over our past areas of specialty.

The reason for this change is really quite simple. In the past year we have not been able to accomplish much because of the pressures to create, sustain and maintain a bureaucracy so the work of Christian Social Action can be as broad as possible. But that means finding people who have the interest, time and energy to expend. We are a very young Fellowship and all of our good people are already over-extended, from the Elders on down. We think we put the cart before the horse and that once we start really producing materials for local congregations to use, people will want to work with us. We now have at least four people who are willing to expend our energy and time on Christian Social Action (and we can find more), so why don't we just go ahead and do it!

We think this is important and wise. So we formally recommend to the Board of Elders that the Task Force on Women, the Task Force on Men, the Task Force on Human Rights, and the Committee on Racism be abolished as separate entities within the Commission on Christian Social Action, with the stipulation that the Commission will continue to pursue the goals and concerns of these task forces and committee.

The question will arise, how can the Elders (or the Commission itself) disband task forces created by General Conference? We hope the Elders can help us with a response, but it seems clear to us that the will of the General Conference is that UFMCC work on certain issues. The structures were created to facilitate that work. The work is more important than a particular structure. If the structures have failed, as we believe they have, then it is time to consolidate so that the work can be done.

Our eventual goal is to expand the Commission beyond just us four, and we are conscious of the need to increase the number of women and laypeople, and involve racial minorities as well. But right now we have very few names of people we know will be able to work, and that is what this restructuring is all about! What we propose, unless the Elders have another suggestion, is that we ask IN Unity to print this memo and the Elders' decision (if you all go along with our idea). Through this we ask people throughout the Fellowship to contact Adam DeBaugh if they are interested in serving with us. We will be contacting people who have worked with us as well, and by the next Elders meeting we will have a list of nominations for you, people who have expressed an interest and a firm commitment to work."

CONGRATULATIONS TO MCC'S AUSTIN AND CALGARY

Congratulations to the congregation of MCC Austin, TX, which was designated a Chartered Church by the Board of Elders during their September meeting. The Rev. Dr. Jefferson Bishop, pastor of MCC Austin, was licensed in the professional ministry of the UFMCC this year.

The Elders also approved Mission status for MCC Calgary, Canada. Pastoring the Fellowship's newest Mission is the Rev. Lloyd Greenway, who has been a minister in the UFMCC since 1977.

THANKS! WE NEEDED THAT

Many thanks to all of you who responded to the Church Services and IN UNITY questionnaires. Please do not think that we have filed them away for posterity! We appreciate the valid and candid comments that were expressed, and want you to know that we are using your suggestions. We hope to be able to publish a short summary of the responses soon. †



October 16, 1978

Advisory Letter:

In response to the question: "We request an interpretation of By-Laws article V.C.3. As it reads now: 'all elected representative(s) of the OLC have a seat on the Board of Home Missions.' This would lead one to believe that 'the elected representative(s) from each church congregation/body' has a seat on the Board of Home Missions." (Submitted by office of Lay Concerns, Southwest District.)

The Elders base their interpretation upon the following:

1. Article V.C.3 deals with Districts and district-wide offices. If individual Churches are discussed the wording clearly indicates that to be the case. In this paragraph, the Pastors of all Chartered Churches are specifically mentioned. However, the lay representative(s) are not so designated indicating the By-Laws are referring to the number of district-wide lay representative(s) now permitted.
2. It is the understanding and recollection of the Elders that debate during General Conference on this By-Law provision referred to only district-wide lay representative(s) serving on the Board of Home Missions.
3. In practice this has been the understanding of the clergy and laity in all other districts. In no case have lay representative(s) from member congregations served on the Board of Home Missions. In the case of each district the district-wide lay representative(s) has served as the lay member of the Board of Home Missions.

FOR THE BOARD OF ELDERS

Carol S. Cureton
(Rev.) Carol S. Cureton, Clerk

CSC:get

HOW TO CHANGE UFMCC BY-LAWS

It is always important to understand how change is effected. When dealing with a large, international organization such as the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the task can become overwhelming unless it is carried out in a systematic manner.

The early days of UFMCC were built on personal dynamic testimony. This charisma helped to sustain and move our denomination to its present position as a viable church on the growing edge of Christianity. Today, the methods for change exist, but to understand and implement them, we must understand their logical progressions.

First, an individual delegate (lay or clergy) cannot introduce his/her By-laws change directly onto the business floor at General Conference. This is a point of frustration for many people, but the frustration need not stop individual efforts. One person can introduce change, but (s)he must share this responsibility with either a chartered church, a district conference, or a Fellowship Board, Commission or Committee. In other words, step one: to get a By-laws change onto the floor of General Conference, it must be sponsored by a chartered church, a district conference, or a UFMCC Board, Commission or Committee.

The correspondent for this sponsoring group (secretary, clerk, chairperson, etc.) must submit the exact wording of the proposed change, and a written statement of the rationale for the change (not to exceed 100 words) to the administrative office of the UFMCC. This information will be photocopied for the files and immediately forwarded to the Chairperson of the By-laws Committee. The Chairperson will then assign the proposed change either priority one or priority two status for the upcoming General Conference. [The 1979 General Conference will receive as priority one all proposals from the UFMCC Commission on Government, Structures, and as instructed by the 1977 General Conference. Priority two items are those received from other sponsors.]

The By-laws Committee Chairperson will refer all proposed changes to the UFMCC for review regarding its wording, and/or clarity. All proposals must be received by the By-laws Committee postmarked no later than March 31, 1979. The By-laws Committee will then forward the information to the Administrative Office of the UFMCC for distribution to all UFMCC local congregations and clergy no later than June 15, 1978. The proposed changes will then appear before General Conference delegates for debate and action.

SUMMARY

To change the UFMCC By-laws, you must:

1. Prepare exact wording of proposed change.
2. Prepare written statement of rationale, not to exceed 100 words.
3. Secure sponsorship of one (or more) of the following:
 - a. Chartered Church
 - b. District Conference
 - c. A UFMCC Board, Commission or Committee
4. Request sponsoring group's correspondent to send proposed change, rationale and statement of sponsorship to UFMCC, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029.
5. Submit materials postmarked no later than March 31, 1979.



5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles, California 90029 (213) 464-5100

December 26, 1978

TO: All UFMCC Local Congregations
FROM: UFMCC Administrative Offices
RE: Fellowship Mailing, December 1978

This month's mailing includes the materials listed below. We hope this recap of the contents will help you to quickly determine the appropriate distribution of these items. Please make every effort to see that these mailings are shared with the members and friends of your congregation. Posting notices on a "Fellowship Bulletin Board" has proven effective for some groups. If you have a suggestion to enhance the flow of information at the local level, let us know and we'll share it with others.

1. Memo concerning "Resource Packets" .
2. Advisory letter concerning membership of Board of Home Missions.
3. How To Change The UFMCC By-laws.
4. Proposed By-law change from STI for your discussion and in-put.
5. Federal Tax Exemption Letter.
6. General Conference 1979 announcement.
7. General Conference Poster Contest announcement.

Each enclosure, with the exception of item 5 above, should be shared with your church leadership personnel and made available for each member of your congregation to review. Item 5 is for the information and use of the Board of Directors of your congregation.

Now is the time to help each member of MCC understand and become involved in their Fellowship!

VACANT PULPITS

Chartered Churches

~~MCC Hartford
POB 514
Hartford, CT 06101
(203) 522-5575~~

~~MCC New York
675 Hudson Street, #3N
New York, NY 10014
(212) 242-1212~~

~~MCC Austin (effective 1-31-79)
614 E. Sixth Street
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 477-7747~~

MCC Zaria
POB 266
Zaria, Nigeria

~~MCC Atlanta
800 N. Highland Avenue N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30306~~

All Saints MCC (effective 4-15-79)
1067 N. Fairfax Ave., #214
West Hollywood, CA 90046
(213) 650-6806

Christ the King MCC
POB 95148
Oklahoma City, OK 73143
(405) 235-1135

~~MCC Tampa (effective 5-31-79)
2904 Concordia Avenue
Tampa, FL 33609~~

mcc Pomona

Alpha & Omega MCC

mcc Long Beach

mcc Ocean side

mcc Minneapolis

mcc Indianapolis

VACANT PULPITS - (or pulpits filled with worship coordinators who are not professional clergy)

Missions

Open Door Chapel MCC
POB 5443
Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46805
(no phone listed)

MCC PENSACOLA
POB 8087
Pensacola, FL 32505
(904) 476-2059

MCC Illiano
935 South 8th Street
Quincy, IL 62301
(217) 224-2800

MCC Columbia
1730 Gist Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 765-1559

MCC San Antonio
POB 30116
San Antonio, TX 78285

MCC Brisbane
POB 317
Fortitude Valley
Brisbane, QLD 4006
Australia
907) 378-5087

mcc worcester

VACANT PULPITS - (or pulpits filled with worship coordinators who are not
professional clergy)

Study Groups

MCC Perth
POB 159 Mount Lawley
Perth, W.A. 6050
Australia
(09) 328-3097

MCC Birmingham
POB 8069
Birmingham, AL 35218
(205) 785-5689

MCC Joplin
POB 1494
Joplin, Missouri 64801
(417) 781-9494

MCC State College
106 Eisenhower Chapel
University Park, PA 16802
(814) 238-0261

Church of New Hope MCC
POB 34
Waterloo, IA 50704
(319) 234-1981

MCC Atlantic City
18 S. Mt. Vernon Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ 08404

MCC Knoxville
POB 2343
Knoxville, TN 37901
(615) 693-8127

MCC Auckland
68 Cameron Street
Onehunga, Auckland 6
New Zealand

MCC Tallahassee
POB 12548
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(904) 575-8727

MCC New Haven



File

5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles, California 90029 (213) 464-5100

from the desk of ...

CAROL CURETON

2-27-79

Marge -

*Here are the most current
lists available. Please refer
to your directory for listings
of ministers on staff in the
various congregations.*

Love,

Carol

itors of the UFMCC

Ana, California,
who was a member of
such as this, may
In most cases the
an opportunity to

calmly but seriously.
I that you and your
of your church with
other public meetings.
as a safety recommen-
an announcement

WACAP LETTER - (for subject 1111-1-101, would be handwritten and not for
general use only)

Black Group

CAROL ELLISON

8-21-77

Page -

There are the most current
that available. Please refer
to your listing for listing
of literature or staff - the
various categories

Car

Bob



File

5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles, California 90029 (213) 464-5100

February 9, 1979

To All Pastors, Interim Pastors and Worship Coordinators of the UFMCC

Dear sisters and brothers,

By now all of you are aware that our church in Santa Ana, California, was burned by an arsonist. In this case a suspect who was a member of the congregation, has been arrested. Violent acts, such as this, may lead sick or angry people to make similar threats. In most cases the ideas are not acted upon, but we shall take this as an opportunity to suggest general precautions.

If any threats are received, they should be treated calmly but seriously. In any case, please inform the police. We recommend that you and your Board of Directors review the security arrangements of your church with regard to the church building, worship services and other public meetings. We would appreciate it if you would treat this memo as a safety recommendation to you and your Board of Directors, rather than an announcement that would unduly alarm our church members.

Sincerely,

James E. Sandmire

(Rev.) James E. Sandmire
Elder

JES/rn

Page 1



January 1, 1912

My dear Mr. [Name],

I have just received your letter of the 29th.

I am very glad to hear that you are well and hope that you will continue to be so. I am also glad to hear that you are interested in the work of the [Organization]. I am sure that your interest will be of great value to the [Organization]. I am sure that you will find the work of the [Organization] very interesting and profitable.

I am sure that you will find the work of the [Organization] very interesting and profitable. I am sure that you will find the work of the [Organization] very interesting and profitable. I am sure that you will find the work of the [Organization] very interesting and profitable.

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Post Office Box 5570 - Los Angeles, California 90055

ELDER'S MEETING IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
June 5 - 8, 1978

ATTENDANCE: Elders Perry, Hose, Sandmire, Cureton, Smith, Arehart and Wilson

A MISSION STATUS REQUESTS

78A-2 MOVED that requests for Mission and Charter Status be considered only if the following kinds of information are supplied: financial history, attendance history, description of types of outreach programs, description of duties of Board of Director members, and other information that the group considers pertinent. A petition along with this information is to be prepared by the local church body and forwarded first to the District Coordinator and then to the Board of Elders for consideration and action. (M-Cureton/2-Hose; unanimous vote)

78A-3 MOVED that the following groups be designated as Missions:
All Saints MCC, West Hollywood, CA
MCC Louisville, KY
MCC Milwaukee, WI
MCC San Antonio, TX
MCC Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
(M-Arehart/2-Sandmire; Yea: Sandmire, Smith, Arehart and Wilson;
Nay: none; Abstentions: Hose and Cureton) Motion passed.

B CHARTER REQUESTS

78B-1 MOVED that Bd of Elders confirm the mail ballot designating MCC Vancouver as a Chartered Church, effective 5-19-78.
(M-Arehart/2-Wilson; unanimous vote)

C CREDENTIALS REQUIREMENTS AND APPEALS - no action taken

D BUDGET AND FINANCE

78D-3 MOVED that we table for study and clarification the 'Proposed Standard Operating Procedures for Districts and World Church Extension Areas Outside the U.S.A.' (re: expenditure of funds) to be voted on later.
(M-Arehart/2-Cureton; unanimous vote)

78D-4 Whereas the requests for loans to individuals within the UFMCC are being received with increasing frequency, and
Whereas funds are not available from the general fund of the UFMCC, and
Whereas most of the Districts within the UFMCC have surplus funds,
BE IT RESOLVED THAT no loans are to be made from the General Fund or special accounts of the UFMCC, the only exception to be UFMCC paid staff, loans for whom must be specifically approved by vote of the Board of Elders. In all other cases, the request and the need is to be communicated to the appropriate District Coordinator.
(M-Cureton/2-Arehart; unanimous vote)

The Reverend Troy D. Perry, Founder

- 78D-5 MOVED that 50% of the debt owed (approx. \$700) by the Rev. Larry Bernier be forgiven and a payment plan developed by Rev. Sandmire to facilitate the payment of the remainder.
(M-Cureton/2-Sandmire; unanimous vote)

THESE MINUTES SHALL REFLECT THAT clarification was given by the Treasurer indicating that the office supplies for Institutional Ministry should be charged to BIM rather than to the administrative budget for office supplies.

THESE MINUTES SHALL REFLECT THAT Rev. Sandmire reports that a change in the fiscal year is not recommended at this time.

F WORLD CHURCH EXTENSION

- 78F-6 MOVED that, recognizing the unusual circumstances in Nigeria, the Bd of Elders establish a designated fund to which contributions may be sent toward the purchase of a van to be used by MCC churches in Nigeria. UFMCC to begin the fund with \$100. (M-Sandmire/2-Arehart; Yea: Perry, Sandmire, Smith and Arehart; Nay: Hose, Cureton and Wilson)
Motion passed.

- 78F-7 MOVED that the \$100.00 per month being allocated to South Africa be re-allocated to the United Kingdom and that Rev. Wakeford be advised that the Bd of Elders recommends that she make every effort to learn more about the UFMCC methods, practices and polity.
(M-Wilson/2-Cureton; unanimous vote)

- 78F-8 MOVED that Rev. von Buhler be informed that lay people may distribute, but not consecrate, the elements for Holy Communion. (This is made in response to a request for clarification.)
(M-Cureton/2-Arehart; unanimous vote)

- 78F-9 MOVED that the Rev. von Buhler be requested to structure the election/appointment of a lay representative to the Church Extension Committee similar to that of the Committee on Lay Concerns as described in the Reports and Directives of General Conference. Those persons eligible for election/appointment to this position may not be limited except to restrict the election to those who are not professional clergy within the UFMCC. (M-Wilson/2-Cureton; unanimous vote)

- 78F-10 MOVED that the request for the change in title of Church Extension Officer be denied and that titles be kept as they are presently designated. (M-Cureton/2-Wilson; unanimous vote)

THESE MINUTES SHALL REFLECT THAT the Bd of Elders received a request from the Rev. Rhea Miller to sanction and endorse the Outpost/Retreat Program as developed by her, to be located in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Rev. Freda Smith is requested to inform Rev. Miller that the Bd of Elders would like to discuss this project with her before making any decision.

G DISTRICTS

- 78G-4 MOVED that the Bd of Elders express their gratitude to the Rev. Robert Wolfe for the time and energy that he has given during his term as District Coordinator for the Canadian District.
(M-Wilson/2-Sandmire; unanimous vote)
- 78G-5 Whereas the District of Australasia was so designated when there were nine UFMCC church bodies reported to be growing and healthy, and Whereas there are now only two church groups that meet minimum requirements for chartered church status, and
Whereas there were seven licensed or ordained UFMCC ministers serving five cities in that District, and
Whereas there are now six ministers serving in four cities, and
Whereas there were three clergy members of the Board of Home Missions, and
Whereas there are now two clergy and one lay delegate comprising that district, and
Whereas we have affirmative recommendations from both the current and former District Coordinators,
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the area currently designated as the District of Australasia be re-designated as the Church Extension Area of Australasia; further, that the Rev. Art Cazeault shall be named as Church Extension Officer with the Rev. Jan Weymouth and the Rev. Renee Hein named as Church Extension Committee members; further that the structure of this committee be similar to that of the Church Extension Committee in the United Kingdom.
(M-Cureton/2-Wilson; Yea: Cureton, Wilson; Nay: Hose, Sandmire, Arehart and Smith) Motion failed.
- 78G-6 MOVED that MCC Adelaide, currently designated as a Chartered Church, be re-designated a Mission within the UFMCC. This action based on the request of the Board of Directors of MCC Adelaide and the affirmative recommendation of the Board of Home Missions of that District. (M-Wilson/2-Arehart; unanimous vote)
- 78G-7 Whereas the Bd of Elders has received a copy of a memo from the Rev. Art Cazeault dated May 19, 1978, indicating that the Board of Home Missions meeting would be called after his return to Australasia, and Whereas the Rev. John Hose plans to tour the District of Australasia, and Whereas, the need to be good stewards of the Church's money is great,
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Bd of Elders prayerfully requests that the Board of Home Missions Meeting of the District of Australasia be postponed until the time of Rev. Hose's visit. (M-Cureton/2-Wilson; unanimous vote)
- 78G-8 MOVED that the Bd of Elders confirm the mail ballot vote transferring the State of New Jersey to the Mid-Atlantic District.
(M-Cureton/2-Wilson; unanimous vote, Rev. Sandmire absent)
- 78G-9 MOVED that the Bd of Elders implement the designation of Districts by county. Rationale: as we grow, lines of division become more confusing. Requests and correspondence need to be able to be answered without confusion by those who are not familiar with the detailed geography of the United States.
(M-Cureton/2-Wilson; unanimous vote, Rev. Sandmire absent)

H CHURCH BODIES

76H-4 MOVED that we confirm mail ballot approving changes in MCC Kansas City's local by-laws as submitted with the exception of #2 which has already been covered in an advisory letter. (M-Wilson/2-Hose; unanimous vote, Rev. Sandmire absent)

I PROFESSIONAL MINISTERS AND WORSHIP COORDINATORS

78I-5 MOVED that a list of inactive ministers be sent to MCAC for their attention and action. (M-Wilson/2-Cureton; unanimous vote, Rev. Sandmire absent)

78I-6 MOVED that Bd of Elders endorse the memo from Cureton to Perry dated May 24, 1978, outlining the schedule and procedures to be followed with regard to charges against an ordained minister. (M-Cureton/2-Arehart; unanimous vote, Rev. Sandmire absent)

THESE MINUTES SHALL REFLECT THAT the loan to the Rev. John Ayres is as yet unpaid.

J BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

J1 BOARD OF INSTITUTIONAL MINISTRY (USA)

THESE MINUTES SHALL REFLECT THAT Rev. Arehart is requested to draft a proposed structure for Institutional Ministry outside the USA, with with respect to BIM, Bd of Elders, etc.

J2 BOARD OF CAMPUS MINISTRY

78J2-1 MOVED that the Board of Campus Ministry be suspended and the program tabled until we can develop and mature to a point of being able to realistically support and maintain such a program. Further, that gratitude be expressed to Mr. Bob McCann for his time and effort spent in developing this program. (M-Wilson/2-Cureton; unanimous vote, Rev. Sandmire absent)

J3 BOARD OF WORLD CHURCH EXTENSION - no action taken

J4 BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SAMARITAN THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

78J4-1 MOVED that we request a detailed written explanation of the proposed plan of incorporation of STI, with special attention to the financial transfers involved. (M-Cureton/2-Wilson; unanimous vote)

78J4-2 MOVED that the Bd of Elders select a lawyer to work with STI Trustees on the matter of incorporation and that no paper work be submitted to the Secretary of State's office until expressly authorized by the Bd of Elders. (M-Wilson/2-Arehart; unanimous vote)

78J4-3 MOVED that we table the appointment of a STI Trustee until specific action is requested by the present trustees. (M-Hose/2-Sandmire; unanimous vote)

78J4-4 MOVED that the Bd of Elders approve, in concept, the inclusion of the EXCEL program under the auspices of STI. Specifics to be worked out by the Trustees and Staff of STI in accordance with their internal procedures. Further, that any literature or advertising for EXCEL indicate sponsorship by STI. (M-Cureton/2-Hose; unanimous vote, Rev. Sandmire absent)

J10 COMMISSION ON FAITH, FELLOWSHIP AND ORDER

78J10-1 MOVED that we request the Rev. Bill Taylor to prepare a proposal for the FFO Commission. (M-Cureton/2-Arehart; unanimous vote, Rev. Sandmire absent)

J11 COMMISSION ON RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES

78J11-1 MOVED that the Commission on Religious Institutes be suspended and that the program be discontinued until such time as it is needed to fulfill the ministry of the UFMCC and is within the top priority programs selected by the Bd of Elders. (M-Wilson/2-Cureton; unanimous vote, Rev.'s Perry and Sandmire absent)

J12 COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT, STRUCTURES AND SYSTEMS

78J12-2 MOVED that we request GSS and its chairperson Al Smithson to construct a study packet with supporting materials that can be supplied to churches to help them consider the decisions before this commission. (M-Cureton/2-Arehart; unanimous vote, Rev.'s Perry and Sandmire absent)

J13 COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION

78J13-1 MOVED that we table further action on this commission until task definitions can be prepared and submitted by Adam DeBaugh, working in conjunction with the Liaison Elder. Deadline September 1, 1978. (M-Cureton/2-Arehart; unanimous vote, Rev.'s Perry and Sandmire absent)

THESE MINUTES SHALL REFLECT THAT the Bd of Elders notes the recommendation of the Liaison Elder to centralize the Task Force Chairpersons in the Washington, D.C. area.

J14 COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

78J14-1 MOVED that we appoint Dr. Jefferson Bishop (Austin, TX) as the Chairperson of this commission, operating within the task definition as approved by the Bd of Elders. (M-Wilson/2-Cureton; Yea; Cureton, Arehart and Wilson; Abstention: Smith; Rev.'s Perry and Sandmire absent) Motion passed.

78J14-2 MOVED that we approve the task definition for this commission as amended. (see attachment #78J14-2). (M-Cureton/2-Wilson; unanimous vote, Rev.'s Perry and Sandmire absent)

J15 COMMISSION ON INNOVATIVE MINISTRIES

78J15-3 MOVED that the following chairpersons for task forces be approved:

Transgender	Ms. Carol Fremont, Minneapolis
Handicapped	Ms. Sharon Lamb, St. Louis
Chemical Dependency	Vacant (after resignation of Rev. Buff Fisher)

(M-Arehart/2-Cureton; unanimous vote, Rev.'s Perry and Sandmire absent)

J30 MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS AND AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

78J30-4 MOVED that we ask MCAC to consider an alternate method of hearing charges against ministers in view of the financial constraints of the UFMCC. (M-Wilson/2-Cureton; unanimous vote, Rev.'s Perry and Sandmire absent)

J31 BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

78J31-1 MOVED that we accept the task definition as submitted. (M-Arehart/2-Wilson; Yea: Hose, Sandmire, Smith, Arehart and Wilson; Abstention: Cureton) (See attachment #78J31-1)

78J31-2 MOVED that we appoint the following persons to the By-Laws Committee:
Herm Menk, San Francisco - Chairperson
Al Smithson, San Diego
Rev. Karen Ziegler, New York City
(M-Hose/2-Wilson; unanimous vote)

J34 COMMITTEE ON CHURCH HYMNODY

78J34-2 MOVED that we accept the resignation of the Rev. Larry Bernier as chairperson and appoint Mr. Carl Mathis as interim chairperson, with a request that he submit a proposal for the work of this committee. (M-Cureton/2-Wilson; unanimous vote)

78J34-3 MOVED that we accept the task definition for this committee as found on page 82-83 of the Reports and Directives of General Conference. (See attachment #78J34-3) (M-Cureton/2-Wilson; unanimous vote)

J50 UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP PRESS (NOW LISTED AS PUBLICATIONS/CHURCH SERVICES)

L WASHINGTON, D.C. FIELD OFFICE - no action taken

N SAMARITAN THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE - no action taken

O OFFICE OF LAY CONCERNS

78O-2 MOVED that Ms. Jean Gralley, MCC Boston, be contacted and requested to submit a proposal for this office. (M-Wilson/2-Cureton; unanimous vote)

S GENERAL CONFERENCE

THESE MINUTES SHALL REFLECT THAT General Conference 1979 will be held August 13-19, 1979. That Midge Costanza has accepted the invitation to speak. That Dr. Ralph Blair has accepted the invitation to speak if Mon., Fri., or Sat. That we should contact Dr. Kubler-Ross about speaking.

T MINISTERS' CONFERENCES

78T-2 MOVED that we request the Clerk to determine the feasibility of 'equalized' rate structures for Ministers' Conferences to distribute the travel costs equally among the attendees. Rationale: keeping the same locations for ministers' conferences consistently penalizes those who live furthest away. (M-Cureton/2-Wilson; unanimous vote)

THESE MINUTES SHALL REFLECT THAT the dates for ministers' conferences for 1979 shall be:

WESTERN January 16, 17, 18

EASTERN April 17, 18, 19

Meetings held in conjunction with these shall be:

Meeting with District Coordinators January 15

Elders' Meeting January 19 and 20

Meeting with District Coordinators April 20

Elders' Meeting April 21, 22, 23, 24

V ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

78V-2 MOVED that a maximum of \$200 be expended for the Rev. Karen Ziegler to represent UFMCC at the annual conference of the National Council of Community Churches, meeting July 24-28, 1978 in Cherry Hill, NJ (M-Wilson/2-Arehart; unanimous vote)

W ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION - no action taken

X BOARD OF COUNSELORS TO THE BOARD OF ELDERS - no action taken

Z MISCELLANEOUS

78Z-3 MOVED that the Bd of Elders go on record endorsing efforts of the individuals and organizations who have instituted law suits to test the constitutionality of California Proposition 6, The Briggs Initiative. (M-Hose/2-Arehart; unanimous vote)

78Z-4 MOVED that the Bd of Elders expand the reporting to the top 20 congregations ranked according to amount of UFMCC tithe received to include also the top 20 contributing congregations when calculated on a per capita basis. (M-Wilson/2-Hose; unanimous vote, Rev. Sandmire absent)

78Z-5 MOVED that the Bd of Elders reject the fund raising proposal as submitted by Mr. Jack Kuiken. (M-Cureton/2-Wilson; unanimous vote, Rev.'s Sandmire and Arehart absent)

THESE MINUTES SHALL REFLECT THAT the Bd of Elders has agreed to supply the Rev. Ed Hougen with copies of the UFMCC active ministers' statements of faith and call to the Christian ministry, to be used as source material for a book to be written by him. This is with the clear understanding that no individual will be named or quoted without specific written permission from that individual. The cost of reproduction is to be paid by Rev. Hougen.

THESE MINUTES SHALL REFLECT THAT the Clerk is instructed to copy and distribute the minutes of the Board of Elders Meetings to the various UFMCC congregations.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol S. Cureton

(Rev.) Carol S. Cureton
Clerk, Board of Elders

Attachments: 78J14-2 Task Definition - Christian Education Commission
78J31-1 Task Definition - By-Laws Committee
78J34-3 Task Definition - Committee on Church Hymnody

Attachment 78J31-1

TASK DEFINITION - BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

The primary function of the By-Laws Committee of the UFMCC is to gather recommendations for changes in the By-Laws from authorized agencies (not individuals). They then scan the recommended changes, couch them in reasonable grammatic English, study them carefully to see if they need to be cross-referred to other articles in the By-Laws. These recommended changes should then be printed and disseminated to all church bodies in the UFMCC for study and consideration. The time-table for operation is:

1. January 1 of the conference year is the deadline for receipt of recommended By-Law changes.
2. The By-Laws Committee will then perform its function, and forward this information to the UFMCC General Offices for distribution to all UFMCC church bodies no later than March 15 of the conference year.
3. The By-Laws Committee will then present these items to the conference immediately after the presentation of the White Paper of the Board of Elders, for consideration at the designated point on the agenda.

Notification of this procedure should be sent to all official bodies of the UFMCC in September and again in December of the year preceding General Conference.

OFFICIAL BODIES: Board of Elders, Congregations, Boards of Directors, Boards and Commissions of the UFMCC, and Districts of the UFMCC.

Attachment 78J14-2

TASK DEFINITION: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMISSION

1. Develop a central file on Christian Education resources (catalogues, etc.) from other denominations, including a critical review of those resources.
2. Develop, in conjunction and cooperation with the Church Services Department of the UFMCC, a 'clearinghouse' for the exchange of Christian Education programs and materials within the UFMCC churches.
3. Design and develop a curriculum to meet the unique needs of UFMCC which can be offered through the Church Services Department.

Attachment 78J34-3

TASK DEFINITION: COMMITTEE ON CHURCH HYMNODY

1. A basic gathering of already-existing materials for consideration.
2. A study of the pros and cons of various formats, stylistic matters and particular needs in Fellowship Hymnody.
3. The following basic discussions:
 - A. The Hymnal will be inclusive in language.
 - B. It will be representative of all of the UFMCC in content.
 - C. It will include Spanish and French hymns.
 - D. Many hymns will be keyed for guitar accompaniment.
 - E. All hymns will be harmonized (as opposed to simply having a melody line).
 - F. Materials (verse and music) original to and originating in the UFMCC will be included.
 - G. The hymnal will follow the Church Calendar and will include general hymns, choruses, special hymns and service music.
4. Copyright research and correspondence.
5. Fund-raising and promotion.
6. A general questionnaire for people in music leadership in the local churches to obtain ideas and input.
7. A "polling" of local congregations to determine needs, favorite hymns, etc., by questionnaire.
8. Sample hymns provided to local churches for "testing out".
9. Hopefully, a visit during the year by the Chairperson to one District Conference in each district to conduct a "Forum Discussion" and gain feedback on the local level.
10. Liaison work with the Committees (Task Forces) on Women, Men and Racism.
11. The formation of a non-English-speaking Task Force to assist the Committee in making the hymnal truly representative, in cooperation with the Task Force on Racism.
12. Investigating production needs.



Post Office Box 5570 - Los Angeles, California 90055

October 10, 1978

TO THE LAITY AND CLERGY OF THE UFMCC:

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As you know we have been working in California, and across our country, to prepare for an election to be held November 7 concerning the Briggs Initiative. The initiative, if successful, would exclude homosexuals, or any advocates of their civil and human rights, from employment as teachers, counselors, administrators, etc. within the California school system.

I am asking our pastors to read this letter from their pulpits so that each of you can be informed about the work ahead of us. This is not just our fight, it God's fight! For in seeking to deny our rights, those who oppose us seek to deny us "in the name of God". Once more humanity seeks to limit and categorize those to whom God can and does reach and through whom Christ lives in this world. As a part of God's creation we can not continue to let Almighty God be presented to the world in this way. The Lord has reminded me that "it is not by power, it is not by might, but it is by my spirit sayeth the Lord of Hosts."

I am requesting that each of our churches have a special prayer during their November 5th worship service(s), for the outcome of the November 7th election, and for those who perpetrate the denial of the validity of whole segments of God's creation. I am also requesting that each of our members and friends find some time and space during the day of the 7th to pray quietly for these things. I will be fasting that day and request that as many of you as can join me in fasting and prayer from sunrise to sunset on November 7, 1978.

As children of God we can no longer stand by and allow the public misrepresentation of God to this world -- God does not off-handedly condemn those whom God has lovingly created, redeemed and sustained. In the midst of such cries, we must stand with the rock-like faith of Peter who exclaimed, "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common!"

In Christ,

The Reverend Troy D. Perry

The Reverend Troy D. Perry, Founder

Support the Family the "UNITED WAY"

UFMCC
Ecklers

Did you know that all or part of your salary-deducted donation to the United Way Fund can be designated for UFMCC?

By following a simple procedure you can channel this steady (and relatively painless!) contribution to the work of the Fellowship. Just contact your local United Way office and ask for their Campaign Donor Designation Form (pictured below); once filed, your designated contribution will be sent to the Fellowship Office every quarter, providing us with a steady resource that enables us to grow stronger and spread further the message of God's inclusive love.

Support our work with
your brothers and sisters—
Your donation, designated
through the United Way
is a love offering for the
whole fellowship family!

AGN DONOR DESIGNATION FORM

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

Complete Name of Designated Agency

5300 SANTA MONICA BLVD, SUITE 204, LOS ANGELES, CA 90029

Complete Address of Designated Agency

This one year designation is for a Total \$ 100.00

☐ Cash ☐ Direct Bill ☒ Payroll Deduction

I would like to receive an acknowledgement
from the Designated Agency.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Verification of Donor Receipt

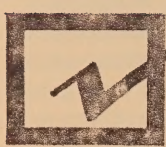
Thank you for your contribution. Your support
is needed so we may continue to provide needed
services.

Signature for Designated Agency

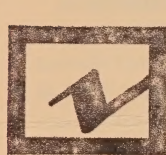


UFMCC
5300 Santa Monica Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90029

MOVING?



Disconnect phone



Have mail forwarded



Contact UFMCC

Ours is a fellowship on the move. And there are times we don't know where some of us have moved to! You can help end the Lost Shepherd Syndrome by simply putting us on your moving checklist before heading for your greener pasture. The moment it takes to drop us a line or make a call saves us weeks (sometimes months!) of wondering where you are. So we'd like to make it as easy as possible.

The form below is for your convenience, in case you have recently relocated or are planning to. But, whenever you make your move, please remember the folks who not only forward you Fellowship news but also try hard to keep us all connected.

Please put us on your checklist. Because losing shepherds makes us sheepish.

THE REV. _____

NEW POSITION _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

check here if
() this section is
to be confidential. HOME PHONE () BUS. (if appl.) ()

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CHURCH PHONE () _____

Mail to

MCC FELLOWSHIP OFFICE
5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304
Los Angeles, California 90029

REFERENCE: ALL UFMCC COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, AND THEIR CHAIRS:

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE: Michael Mank, c/o MCC San Francisco.

COMMISSION ON THE LAITY: Jean Gralley, c/o UFMCC Offices.

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT, STRUCTURES AND SYSTEMS: Rev. Don Eastman, c/o MCC Dallas.

COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION: Adam DeBaugh, c/o MCC Washington D.C.

COMMISSION ON FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, AND ORDER: Rev. Bill Taylor, c/o MCC Denver.

HYMNODY COMMITTEE: Carl Matthes, c/o MCC Los Angeles.

MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS AND AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: Rev. Jim Dykes, c/o MCC San Francisco.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONCERNS: Rev. Larry Uhrig, c/o MCC Washington D.C.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STANDARDS: Rev. John Gill, c/o MCC Ft. Lauderdale.

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL MINISTRY: Rev. Bob Arthur, c/o UFMCC Offices.

SAMARITAN THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE: Rev. Jeffrey Pulling, Dean, c/o UFMCC Offices.

ELDERS' TASK FORCE ON INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE: Rev. Brent Hawkes, c/o MCC Toronto.

TASK FORCE ON MEDIA MINISTRY: Bob Johnson, c/o MCC Washington D.C.

WORLD CHURCH EXTENSION: Rev. Elder Jean White, c/o MCC London.

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE: Adam DeBaugh, c/o MCC Washington D.C.

INNOVATIVE MINISTRIES: Interested persons are asked to contact the Board of Elders.

BOARD OF ELDERS

Rev. Charlie Arehart (Denver)

Rev. Jeri Ann Harvey (Los Angeles)

Rev. John Hose (Treasurer, Atlanta)

Rev. Troy Perry (Moderator, UFMCC Offices)

Rev. Freda Smith (Sacramento)

Rev. Jean White (London)

Rev. Nancy Wilson (Clerk, UFMCC Offices)

BEG PARDON...

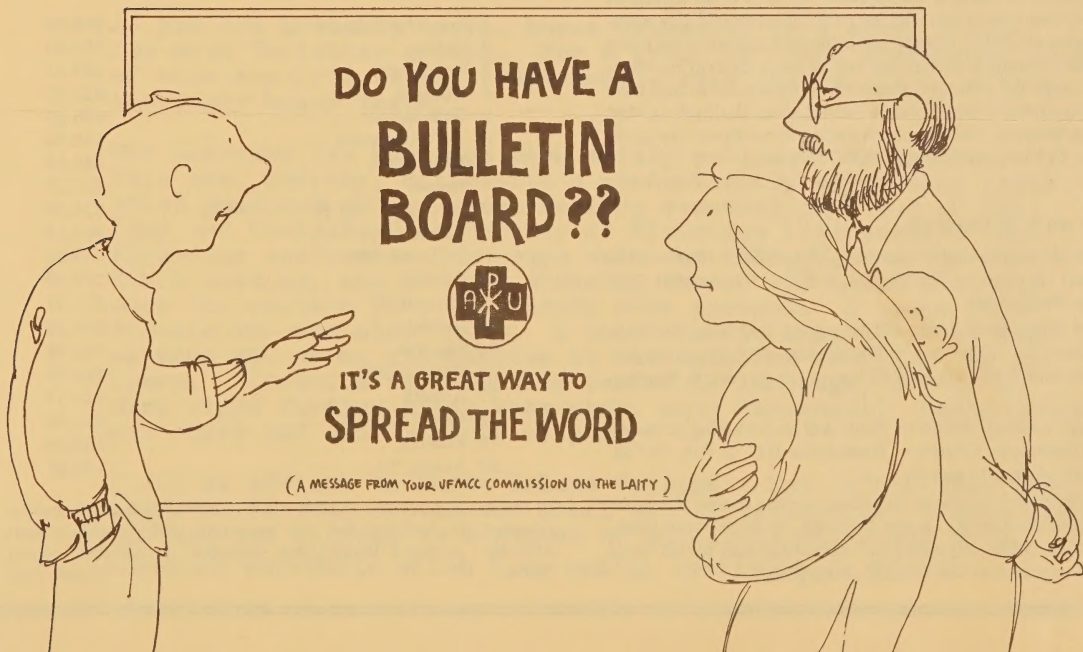
The Fellowship office staff is working hard to produce and send the volumes of materials every General Conference generates. Being in a period of transition, the staff asks your patient indulgence if In Unity or church service orders are a little late. Thank you.

DO YOU HAVE A
BULLETIN
BOARD??



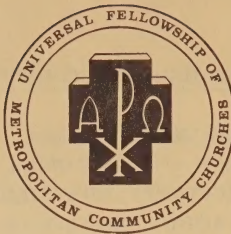
IT'S A GREAT WAY TO
SPREAD THE WORD

(A MESSAGE FROM YOUR UFMCC COMMISSION ON THE LAITY)



KEEPING

NEWS AND NOTES



IN TOUCH

FROM THE FELLOWSHIP OFFICE

SEPTEMBER 1979

RESUMES REQUESTED!

An Office Manager for the UFMCC General Offices in Los Angeles is being actively sought by the Board of Elders.

Salary: \$12,000 per annum with insurance.

To begin: November 1, 1979.

Interviews to be arranged upon receipt of applicable resumes. Resumes *only* are now being accepted by the Clerk of the Board of Elders. Please send to Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, California 90029.

BY-LAWS AVAILABLE

Copies of the official UFMCC By-Laws, revised at General Conference IX, are now available through the Church Services Dept. Cost per copy (which includes postage and handling) is 50 cents. Those outside the United States are asked to remit in U.S. currency. Orders for churches are billed; individuals are requested to accompany their order with a check made out to the UFMCC (California residents must add 6% sales tax). Orders are being received at 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

NEW PUBLICATION ON LITURGY

All ministers, congregations and interested individuals: The Task Force on Liturgies of the FFO Commission is seeking input for a newsletter about the variety and creativity of our liturgies. Orders of service, celebrations, lay-led services, articles, questions, etc. are requested by this new publication for circulation throughout the Fellowship.

Please contact Rev. Bob Freeman-Jones, 819 Madison Street, Syracuse, New York 13210.

LAST CALL!

Photographers of General Conference! Prints of all aspects of conference are being requested for publication by In Unity magazine. Photos of events, friends, and informal happenings are being sought for a special section reflecting the many kinds of experiences that make up a General Conference. Each print should have the photographer's name clearly indicated on the back so that credit can be given. Prints must be mailed immediately for inclusion. (c/o In Unity magazine, UFMCC Offices.)

MARCH ON WASHINGTON

We invite all of our church groups (and especially those on the east coast) to come to Washington, D.C. for the October 14th March on Washington.

Reverend Elder Troy Perry will be taking the "Gay Freedom Train" from San Francisco to Washington, D.C. The week following the march the Board of Elders will be meeting in Washington.

On Sunday evening, Reverend Perry will be preaching at Metropolitan Community Church — Washington D.C. at 945 "G" St. Everyone is invited to attend.

We urge as many people as possible to come to the March on Washington. Contact Mr. Adam DeBaugh, director of our Washington Field Office, regarding the assembling area for all those who wish to march as the UFMCC contingent.

TOP TWENTY TITHES

For the month of July 1979

1 Los Angeles	868.09
2 Dallas	751.90
3 San Diego	653.31
4 Houston	622.67
5 Washington	465.80
6 No. Hollywood	442.84
7 Long Beach	386.53
8 Denver	375.27
9 Chicago (Good Sheperd Parish)	324.56
10 Kansas City, Mo.	309.13
11 St. Louis, Mo.	279.26
12 Detroit	275.39
13 Cincinnati	271.37
14 Wichita	265.26
15 San Jose	263.92
16 Minneapolis	226.45
17 Atlanta	219.11
18 New York City	211.45
19 Phoenix	188.48
20 Austin, Tx	185.69

In the future, the top churches *in per-capita giving* will also be reported. To facilitate this it is important that churches submit accurate, up-dated membership statistics on monthly report forms.

Thank you!



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES
OF PROVIDENCE

POST OFFICE BOX 1462

PROVIDENCE, RI 02901

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
5 Junction Street, Providence
(401) 272-9247

Sunday Services - 7:00 PM
134 Mathewson St.

April 22, 1979

Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Moderator
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan
Community Churches
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard #304
Los Angeles, Calif. 90029

Dear Troy:

I attended the Commission on Women in Ministry Conference of the National Council of Churches on March 21, 22, and 23 at Marriottsville, Maryland.

As you know from my last letter, I meet with the Task Force on Gay Issues. This time a great deal of our effort dealt with planning the "Lesbian, Gay and Christian" Conference at Kirkridge, Pennsylvania, which six members of COWIM were to act as steering committee and facilitators. An additional area of importance was the upcoming (in October) workshop and consciousness raising session on Human Sexuality which the Task Force will be facilitating for COWIM's next meeting.

As you are probably aware, human sexuality is a heavy issue for most Christian groups. For a group of women ministers, many of whom are from fairly traditional-based groups, it is a particularly heavy issue.

Our previous two meetings were mainly political in nature. This one, however, dealt with a predominantly women-only issue -- which grew out of the women feeling somewhat left out of the "Gay and Christian" conference at Kirkridge last summer. The Kirkridge conference for women only was held right after the COWIM meeting, and we went directly there. 32 women from all over the eastern U.S. and Canada were present. A woman from Toronto MCC was also there. I think we did a good job of presenting MCC as an alternative to the mainline churches for gay women. (Despite its sometime sexism in language, MCC is a darn sight further along than many, many churches!) Nancy Krody was there and sent regards to you.

I act as advisor to Rhode Island College's Sex Information and Referral Service and am our local sexuality expert! I have access through the college to a number of excellent films and some workshop materials which I am making available to COWIM.

I am sending a copy of this along to Nancy Wilson and am enclosing the costs of my attending the COWIM meeting. I paid my own way to Kirkridge (since it was also a chance to get away from it all.)

I think we do good things at COWIM. Many of the women tell me of their good rapport with the MCC minister in their home cities, and I think respect for us as a functioning Christian church is growing, particularly among women ministers. COWIM also helps to keep the gay issue alive among mainline churches through our participation in the Task Force on Gay Issues. The educational benefit of our participation in things like the Human Sexuality workshop cannot be undervalued. Our presence raises consciousness constantly.

I think after the October meeting someone else needs to be chosen to represent MCC there, since I am hoping to be called to either the deep south or southwest. Dee seems to be too busy, and Jennie Bull seems a good substitute, since she lives in nearby Maryland fairly close to where most of the meetings are held.

It was good to see you at Eastern Ministers' Conference, and as I said in my other letter, I'll be visiting out there in early May. See you then, if you're around.

In Christ's love,

Marge Ragona

mfr



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF PROVIDENCE

POST OFFICE BOX 1462

PROVIDENCE, RI 02901

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
5 Junction Street, Providence
(401) 272-9247

Sunday Services - 7:00 PM
134 Mathewson St.

April 22, 1979

Rev. Elder Freda Smith
Metropolitan Community Church of
Sacramento
P.O. Box 5282
Sacramento, Calif. 95817

Dear Freda:

Enclosed is a letter which I wrote Troy and which I think is self-explanatory. Can anyone help Richard? He has gone out on something of a limb, considering that he is still in the Army. I think a lot of him, and I believe his motives really are sound.

It was good to see you at Eastern Ministers' Conference and to meet Jean White. I have sent her crosses to Sacramento and hope they reach her before she leaves. ~~I am enclosing a bill for her (which I forget to send along) and hope this reaches her in time also.~~ (Not pushing, just realized I had left it out of the envelope.) *Sent it to her in London.*

I wonder how the elders would feel about separating the MCAC for the time from the Ministerial Concerns subcommittee. So many of the ministers seemed to be at a painful place, and it's hard to reach out for care and comfort to the very people before whom one is supposed to look "together" and competent. (Even though we all know that most of us at some time in our professional lives will be anything but that!) I can see a real need to the Concerns people to be really activated -- and for a ministerial association so that people can help strengthen each other. Concerns does not seem to be functioning at present. Can it be activated? I know that a number of the ministers in the East reach out to each other for support, but how many real support networks are available?

Can't wait for General Conference! God bless you and my best to Jean as she goes homeward. We'll keep her in our prayers.

In Christ's love,

Marge Ragona

mfr



5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles, California 90029 (213) 464-5100

November 24, 1980

MCC Ventura
P.O.Box A-0
Ventura, CA 93002

Dear Marge;

The Fellowship Offices will be staffing a booth at the upcoming Gay and Lesbian Lifestyle Convention "EXPO", December 12 - 14. In connection with this the offices will be publishing a special edition of our Church Directory of the congregations in Los Angeles and Orange County. I would appreciate if you would furnish me with a short 1 (one) paragraph statement of what is happening in your church. In addition, we will be publishing the basic information, such as location, time of services, and telephone number, in addition we will be putting the Pastor's name in this directory.

Your co-operation in having this information to me no later than December 5th will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at the offices.

Sincerely,

Philip Gallnitz-O'Dell
Office Administrator

PGO/rgo

THIS BOOK IS
SENT TO YOU
COMPLIMENTS OF:

PAULINE
LAWRENCE



5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles, California 90029 (213) 464-5100

May 1, 1979

Dear MCC Member:

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches has been offered a fundraising opportunity through participation in a subscription promotion program with The ADVOCATE.

For every one-year, \$15 subscription generated by an MCC member, \$3 will be returned to the member's Church. For every two-year, \$27 subscription, your Church will receive \$5. If, for example, your Church generates 1000 one-year subscriptions, you would receive \$5500 from The ADVOCATE. Regardless of the number of subscriptions generated, the return policy is \$3 for each \$15 subscription and \$5 for each \$27 subscription.

The ADVOCATE will supply you with subscription forms which must be mailed to their offices along with a check or money order payable to them for each subscription. To insure proper credit to your Church, you must fill in the coupon blank designated for participating organization. Do this before distributing the forms among your members. The ADVOCATE will enter each subscription and record the amount due your Church. A check will be sent to you each month for the total amount recorded for that month.

The person to call or write to at The ADVOCATE is Nancy Bishop. She will send you the subscription forms, maintain the records, and answer any questions you might have about the program.

It's an opportunity that augurs well for all of us.

Sincerely,

Reverend Troy D. Perry
Universal Fellowship

Peter G. Frisch
Associate Publisher

TDP:PGF/fkz



Post Office Box 5570 - Los Angeles, California 90055

(213) 680-2111

February 8, 1979

Rev. Marjorie F. Ragona
C/O MCC Providence
POB 1462
Providence, RI 02901

Dear Rev. Ragona,

On the enclosed listing, you will find that we have you listed as an available minister within the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

To enable us to keep this listing current and accurate, we ask that you review your copy to make sure that it is correct.

Please let us know if there are any changes or corrections concerning your status.

Sincerely,

Church Services Department

GET/

Enclosure

AVAILABLE MINISTERS

(Clerk's note: This list is not guaranteed to be a complete listing; it is at this point a compilation of those persons checking the appropriate spaces on their most current monthly reports.)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Assistant</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Date Listed</u>
Rev. John Ayres c/o MCC Sarasota POB 818 Sarasota, FL 33734	X	X		12-1-77
Rev. Jane Taylor C/O MCC Sacramento POB 5282 Sacramento, CA 95817	X			3-16-78
Rev. Keith Davis 210 Fifth Ave., Suite 1102 New York, NY 10010	X			3-30-78
Rev. Candace Naisbitt (effective 9/1/78) 148 N. 34th. Street Omaha, NB 63121	X			5-30-78
Rev. Thomas Stone 1154 2nd Street Monterey, CA 93940		X	X	5-30-78
The Rev. Bruce Hill C/O MCC San Jose POB 2288 San Jose, CA 95109	X	X	X	6-1-78
The Rev. J.E. Paul Breton Box 814 Redondo Beach, CA 90277	X	X	X	7-1-78
The Rev. Donald Johnson 2202 Footpath Circle, #2093 Tampa, FL 33612	X			9-8-78
The Rev. Wm. J. Taylor C/O MCC of The Rockies POB 9536 Denver, CO 80209	X			9-1-78
The Rev. Art Caezalt 198 Southern Heights Blvd. San Raphael, CA 94901	X	X		11-13-78
The Rev. Jefferson Bishop 7417 Moline Houston, TX 77807	X	X		12-5-78
The Rev. Marjorie F. Ragona C/O MCC Providence POB 1462 Providence, RI 02901	X		X	12-8-78

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Assistant</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Date Listed</u>
Rev. David Gillentine C/O MCC Stockton POB 4251 Stockton, CA 95204	X	X		1-10-79
Rev. Marshall Williams C/O MCC San Francisco 1076 Guerrero Street San Francisco, CA 94110	X	X		15-15-78
Rev. Delores Berry C/O New Freedom Evangelistic Team POB 371 Galena Park, TX 77547	X	X		2-6-79



THE EVANGEL LITE

June & July

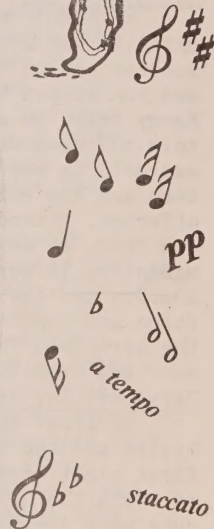
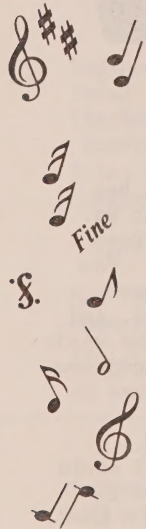
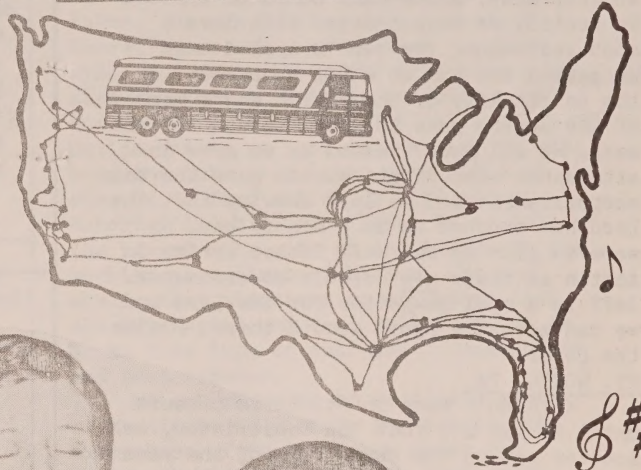


FREE!

SCHEDULE OF RENEWALS

July 26-30	Baltimore, MA
Aug. 9-13	Toronto, ONT
Aug. 16-20	Indianapolis, IN
Aug. 23-27	Knoxville, TN
Aug. 30 -	
Sept. 3	Memphis, TN.

If you wish to have a spiritual renewal in your church, please talk to your pastor/worship co-ordinator and have them contact the team.



NEW FREEDOM

Evangelistic Team, Inc.

P.O. Box 371 ♦ Galena Park, Tx. ♦ 77547





Observations On A Bus Trip

AUSTIN, TX.

We left Houston on our way to Austin with much enthusiasm and anticipation. The trip consisted of Ron yelling for Scooter to "Hang On", we're going to hit another bump. After many bumps we arrived in Austin. We were greeted with love & much assistance for our "crippled team". We parked the bus at a KOA campground at the hospitality of the church and a member of the church gave us a car to use for the week. We all were blessed as we grew in attendance each night. Austin gave the team encouragement and we left knowing that the Lord had touched us in a mighty way. We were so glad to see Jeff Bishop arrive in Austin as their new worship co-ordinator. Jeff is a real go-getter for the Lord and we can expect a rapid growth there. Praise the Lord!

FT. WORTH, TX.

We hadn't been in Ft. Worth 6 hours until we met a 7 foot Boa Constrictor, well Scooter sat on the other side of the room and Ron wanted to pet this 7 foot "snake". Nancy tried to act very calm when she was told the cage was right beside her. A show was held in one of the local bars for the team and the BOA helped bring in a love offering. Attendance was very low on Wed. and Thur. so we prayed and did some bar ministry. It worked! Attendance really did improve and the Holy Spirit came with such force and continued to bless the rest of the services. The Lord was victorious with many new commitments and revived souls. Fayetteville, Ark.

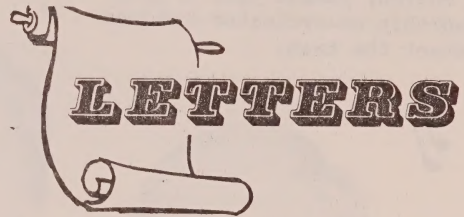
My Lord! that church out sang our PA System and the team was hoarse after the first night because the sanctuary was filled. With the Spirit moving like that our cups were overflowing with joy. We ask all of you in the fellowship to keep Fayetteville in your prayers as they seek a new building. It gives us new hope when we as a team can see the Lord move so strongly in a study group. Fayetteville, keep up the good work and God Bless you.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

I don't think we could ever put into words all the marvelous things that happened in Oklahoma City. In short but not with-

out feelings of love and thanks, the bus was partially remodeled which included a new "Electric Refrigerator". HALLELUJAH!!! We watched the Lord touch many hearts as testimonies were given about how the Lord has done in the person's lives since the last 3 spiritual renewals in just this one church. This gave the team energy to press on with this ministry knowing what the Lord can do. Judy Davenport is doing a fine job and the church has unanimously fell in love with her. God bless all of you for your love and your gifts.

(NEXT MONTH: Mid-Central District conference, Wichita, Omaha, and Des Moines)



Dear All;

You'll never know how much it has meant to all of us to have you with us. What a joy it is to know that the Lord and I are on speaking terms again! You know, if I've sung "Because He Lives" once, I've sung it a thousand times. And I never really paid attention to the words until last week. But I can face tomorrow and life is worth living just because He lives. Praise God!

Last night when I went to bed I started reading a novel. Somehow I could not keep my mind on my reading; and I said aloud (rather disgustedly), "Oh Lord-what's the matter with me?" I then repeated what I had just said--only this time much, much slower. This started my conversation with Jesus. Before I fell asleep, I had laughed, cried, and really bared my soul verbally to Him. He knew what was on my mind; yet I just had to tell Him. I have no idea how long all this went on; but Jesus then gave me something I really needed--sleep. Praise the Lord--after all these years of play-

ing "Christian", Jesus and His Spirit are in my heart; and they are giving me peace of mind. With Jesus by my side, no one can take it away from me--not even my mother. And Ron, the Lord told me to stop bitching about her. So I am praying that I will have more patience and understanding with her.

Nancy, I wanted to tell you about this experience when I came to say goodbye the morning that you left. Yet, I could'nt. I think I was in a state of shock after it all happened. The whole thing was totally unreal. But if you all hadn't come to our church, I seriously doubt that I would have ever gone back to an MCC again. But thank the good Lord you came at the right time. I love each one of you so very much. I guess what I'm trying to say is "thanks" for softening my heart so the Lord could come in.

Love Now and Forever
(Arkansas, USA)

*The Book, "Gay Harvest" by Rev. Ron Anderson is now available. Please send \$5 for each book when ordering.

MAY FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Budget	(-) 474.00
Total Income	(+) 1,336.00
(including District conference)	862.00
Total Expense (*)	(-) 829.00
Ending Budget	(+) 33.00

* Includes Tithes to U.F.M.C.C.

Bus Fund Balance	149.00
Home Missions Balance	32.00
(\$1,500 needed to start one church this winter)	181.00

JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Budget	(+) 33.00
Total Income	(+) 2,023.13
	2,056.13
Total Expense (*)	(-) 1,833.81
Ending Budget	(+) 122.32

* Expenses include Tithes and two new tires for the bus, plus repairs for the break down in Wichita, KNS.

Bus Fund Balance	2,074.52
Home Missions Balance	82.00
(\$1,500 needed to start one church this winter)	2,156.52

Home Missions

"Home Missions" is a very small word for such a large job. Our plans are to take this winter's months and go into a city that does not have an MCC and build one from the ground up. We feel that if an MCC is built on a proper foundation that many of the problems that our churches in the past have had will be avoided. We are very excited about this new outreach and at the same time a little nervous about the steps of faith that it will take.

The first steps are already being taken. We are looking at a number of target areas and praying that the Lord will lead us in the right direction. We also see that this is an on-going part of our ministry, so any of the cities that we decide not to go into this winter we will be going into at a later date. The next step is to find out which minister or exhorter is able and willing to go into the target city with us and remain as the worships co-ordinator/ pastor. We are asking that ministers or exhorters that are interested and feel called of God to be in this type of outreach contact us and send resumes.

We are planning on writing a manual of how to build a study group using the experience of the past two years and during the time of building this first group. This is something that has been needed in our Fellowship for many years. Now, we can have actual experience to accomplish this much needed and talked about booklet.

The next problem is the expense of such an outreach. We have estimated that it will cost at a minimum \$1,500, this is if we only supply the minimum outreach. It will cost more if it is a maximum effort. We are asking that the churches in the United States or individuals help in this cost. Personal donations, benefits, socials, dinners, are only a few ways that money can be raised for this ministry.

We feel that it is time to have an organized and efficient way of building new churches. We also feel that with all of the team and the worship co-ordinator/ pastor working full time, having all the equipment needed, experience, talent, and God's leading that the whole Fellowship will benefit.

Please mark any donations for this new outreach "Home Missions", so that it will go directly into that fund. God bless you and please keep us in your prayers.

THE TEAM

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you're
moving,
please let
us know six
weeks before
changing
your address.

ATTACH
PRESENT MAILING
LABEL HERE

NEW ADDRESS:

NAME

STREET

CITY

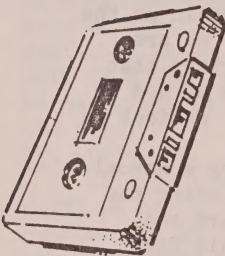
STATE

ZIP CODE

◆ ◆ ◆ Prayer List ◆ ◆ ◆

- * The team as we travel
- * Nancy and Scooter for continued recovery from their accident.
- * Finances for this publication to be continued.
- * The "Bus Fund" and "Home Missions Fund"
- * A number of churches and ministers as they seek pastors and pulpits.
- * California as they fight for freedom.
- * Thank God for so many answered prayers and blessings.

GOSPEL MUSIC



ALL MUSIC I

Our first music tape made in 1976 with Annette and Ron singing.

ALL MUSIC II

The New Freedom Singers singing Gospel Rock, Soul, and Country Western.

FREEDOM CONCERT

A recorded service of all music - contains specials by lay people.

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE TAPE MINISTRY GOES INTO THE "BUS FUND" FOR THE PURCHASE OF NEW TRANSPORTATION FOR THE TEAM TO TRAVEL.



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IMPORTANT NOTICE - EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 1978

THE NEW ADDRESS OF THE GENERAL OFFICES OF THE UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES IS:

5300 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, #304

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90029

THIS IS THE NEW MAILING ADDRESS FOR:

UFMCC

UFMCC - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLICATIONS & CHURCH SERVICES
UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP PRESS
UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP BOARD OF INSTITUTIONAL MINISTRY

— — — — —
THE NEW ADDRESS FOR SAMARITAN THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE IS:

5300 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, #104

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90029

January 17, 1977

Rev, Larry Bernier
UFMCC
P.O. Box 5570
Los Angeles, Calif. 90055

Dear Larry:

For the interest of readers of In Unity, I thought you might include the following:

The December 24, 1977 issue of Boston's Gay Community News carried the news that WBZ's series of subjects on the subject "Gay Rights, Who's Right" won a New England local Emmy Award for Best Station Project. The series which aired on the NBC affiliate in August 1977, was part of the station's Gay Impact Week. "Gay Rights, Who's Right" was a full week's worth of programming on the issue of rights for gays. It came shortly after the defeat of the gay rights ordinance in Dade County, Florida.

The reason this is of interest to us, is that MCC Boston was featured on one evening news segment, Rev. Marge Ragona was interviewed on the evening news, two of her children, Jonathan and Missy, were interviewed for the Children of Gays segment, and Rev. Ragona, Elaine Nobel, Mr. and Mrs. Jules Manford (parents of Gay Activist Morty Manford, a member of N.Y.'s Gay Synagogue) and various other Boston gay activists were featured on the main program of the week, a four-hour evening show with the above title. Rev. Ragona was featured in a segment with Linda Carford, Rev. Richard Lovelace (of Gordon-Conwell Seminary), and two psychiatrists -- one of them being Tiffany Barnhouse author of a new book about Homosexuality, -- in which gay teachers and their effect on children was discussed. Rev. Ragona, Linda Carford (of Dignity, Boston), and others on the segment had all been teachers at one time.

the
Larry: I was also the consultant on/gay community in Boston and helped with some of the preplanning.

Love,

Marge.

January 17, 1977

Rev. Larry Bernier
UNMCC
P.O. Box 5570
Los Angeles, Calif. 90025

Dear Larry:

For the interest of members of In Unity, I thought you might include the following:

The December 24, 1977 issue of Boston's Gay Community News carried the news that WBZ's series of subjects on the subject "Gay Rights, Who's Right" was a New England Local Emmy Award for Best Station Project. The series which aired on the MBO affiliate in August 1977, was part of the station's Gay Impact Week. "Gay Rights, Who's Right" was a full week's worth of programming on the issue of rights for gays. It came shortly after the defeat of the gay rights ordinance in Dade County, Florida.

The reason this is of interest to us, is that MBO Boston was featured on one evening news segment, Rev. Marge Hagons was interviewed on the evening news, two of her children, Jonathan and Missy, were interviewed for the Children of Gays segment, and Rev. Hagons, Elaine Nobel, Mr. and Mrs. Jules Harford (parents of Gay Activist Morty Harford, a member of N.Y.'s Gay Synagogue) and various other Boston gay activists were featured on the main program of the week, a four-hour evening show with the above title. Rev. Hagons was featured in a segment with Linda Carford, Rev. Richard Lovelace (of Gordon-Gonwell Seminary), and two psychiatrists -- one of them being Tiffany Harboush, author of a new book about Homosexuality -- in which gay teachers and their effect on children was discussed. Rev. Hagons, Linda Carford (of Dignity, Boston), and others on the segment had all been teachers at one time.

Larry: I was also the consultant on gay community in Boston and helped with some of the preplanning.

Love,

Marge.

An Emmy for WBZ's 'Gay Rights'



BOSTON — WBZ-TV's series of programs on the subject "Gay Rights, Who's Right?" has won a New England local Emmy Award for Best Station Project. The series, which aired on the NBC affiliate in August of this year, was part of the station's "Gay Impact Week." "Gay Rights, Who's Right?" was a full week's worth of programming on the issue of rights for gays. It came shortly after the defeat of the gay rights ordinance in Dade County, Florida. The decision to do the week of programming, believed to be unique in American television, was made by the station's general manager, Sy Yanoff. Yanoff (l.) accepts the Emmy from Tony Pepper and Darlia Diaz St. Marie.

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USED EXCEPT FOR MAILING GCN.

GCN, December 24, 1977 • Page 5.

P.S. That issue also carried the news below:

The Falcons Motorcycle Club has come to the aid of the Metropolitan Community Church of this city in the "true spirit" of the holiday season. Providence MCC pastor Marge Ragona (recently the assistant pastor of the Boston MCC) found herself in a bind this year with 18 children at the church who were from families on welfare or unemployment, faced with a "not so merry Christmas."

Hearing of the problem, the Falcons decided to forego their usual gift-giving at their annual party and collect presents for the children at MCC. "It's fantastic," Ragona told GCN. "We have more than enough gifts for the children. We have tinker toys and construction sets and doll houses and stuffed toys. I mean really cute toys, neat stuff. These guys (the Falcons) are the sweetest guys that ever lived."

Providence MCC will distribute the gifts to the children at a Christmas Eve party at the church.

Which we did.

news

A FALCONS' CHRISTMAS

PROVIDENCE, RI — The Falcons Motorcycle Club has come to the aid of the Metropolitan Community Church of this city in the "true spirit" of the holiday season. Providence MCC pastor Marge Ragona (recently the assistant pastor of the Boston MCC) found herself in a bind this year with 18 children at the church who were from families on welfare or unemployment, faced with a "not so merry Christmas."

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Providence MCC will distribute the gifts to the children at a Christmas Eve party at the church.

TO: All Professional Ministers of UFMCC

FROM: The Board of Elders

RE: Ministers' Conferences 1978

Attached are copies of the schedule for the 1978 Western and Eastern Ministers' Conferences.

These Conferences are designed to meet the needs of Ministers as they were expressed during previous Ministers' Conferences. You will note three major changes. The most obvious is that we've expanded the time allotted for the Conference by one day. This extra day is designed to allow sufficient time for you to "digest" the material presented in the seminars, as well as to give you time for a little more "breathing space"--to give each of you the opportunity to relax, enjoy the fellowship of your co-ministers, and to share in the important responsibility of ministering to each other. Thursday, the extra day, is optional, but we encourage all of you to take advantage of the opportunity.

The second important change is that Samaritan Theological Institute will be offering two seminars for credit or audit, with different topics available at each conference. The Cost of these seminars is \$10.00 for credit (available only to those officially enrolled in STI) and \$5.00 to audit. This would be a good opportunity for you to check out STI for yourself--the Institute has changed and improved a great deal over the last couple of years. Although half-day seminars are certainly not equivalent to a full quarter's work, you could gain first hand information by attending these seminars presented primarily by STI's "field faculty."

In an effort to be responsive to your requests to provide a setting most conducive to sharing and ministering to each other, we have instituted the third most obvious change in this year's Conferences--we are extending the registration only to Licensed and Ordained Ministers within the UFMCC, together with their spouses, mates, significant others, etc. In addition, some of the individual sessions during the week-end will be open to the professional clergy only. However, please understand that this is not intended to relegate your loved-one to any kind of lesser status, but rather an attempt to provide a setting in which you can share freely with both your professional peers and your families.

We have two special invited guest speakers to provide the main thrust for each Conference. The Western Conference will feature Dr. Clarence Snelling, a professor at Iliff Theological Seminary in Denver, Colorado, who is in charge of pastor-training, and who also does consulting work for the United Methodist Church. The Eastern Conference will feature Dr. Ken Woodside, former pastor of Trinity Methodist Church in Detroit Michigan, who is presently teaching at a Roman Catholic Seminary in Detroit and who also does some consulting work in Management. Please refer to the enclosed Conference agenda for more details.

We look forward to seeing each one of you at one of these Conferences, and request your feedback so that we might structure these meetings to be of the most value to you.

1978 WESTERN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

JANUARY 26, 27, 28

PORTLAND, OREGON

SCHEDULE:

Thursday, January 26

9:00 to 10:00 am Breakfast and Registration
10:00 to Noon CHURCH FINANCES AND TAXES: What Every Pastor
Should Know
Noon to 1:30 pm Lunch
1:30 to 5:00 pm S.T.I. Seminars (Choose one)

DEATH AND DYING: A Theological-Medical Dialogue
Rev. Jim Dykes and Dr. Lanny Dykes

LEADING MORE EFFECTIVE WORSHIP
Rev. Heather Anderson and Rev. Jeffery Pulling

6:00 pm Dinner
7:30 pm WORSHIP SERVICE

Friday, January 27

8:00 to 9:00 am Breakfast
9:00 to Noon MODELS OF MINISTRY -- Dr. Clarence Snelling
This Seminar includes theological/practical
reflections on alternative models of ministry;
helping ministers to come to terms with assumptions,
and styles of ministry.
Noon to 1:30 pm Lunch
1:30 to 5:00 pm MODELS OF MINISTRY (Continued)
6:00 pm Dinner
7:30 pm WORSHIP SERVICE

Saturday, January 28

8:00 to 9:00 am Breakfast
9:00 to 11:00 am REPORT: The Subcommittee on Standards of the
Ministerial Credentials and Affairs Committee

(Dr. Snelling will be available for consultation.)

Noon to 1:30 pm Lunch
1:30 to 5:00 pm S.T.I. SEMINARS (Repeated; choose one)
6:00 pm Dinner
7:30 pm WORSHIP SERVICE

NOTE: ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE PREPAID AND MUST BE POST MARKED NO LATER
THAN JANUARY 10, 1978.

If you plan to attend the Western Ministers' Conference, please
complete the enclosed registration form, making checks payable to
UFMCC - Ministers' Conference, and return to:

UFMCC Ministers' Conference
POB 5570
Los Angeles, California 90055

1978 WESTERN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

REGISTRATION FEE ENCLOSED: 3 Days, \$32.50 per person
 2 Days, \$27.50 per person

RETURN THIS FORM, POST MARKED NO LATER THAN JANUARY 10, 1978.
REGISTRATIONS MUST BE PREPAID. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO UFMCC-MINISTERS'
CONFERENCE AND MAIL TO P.O. Box 5570, Los Angeles, CA 90055.

Please complete this portion of the form which we will supply to the
host church.

NAME _____ MCC _____

I will be arriving in Portland on January _____.

I request housing for the following nights: _____

I will arrive by car ____, train ____, bus ____, Airplane (Airline _____,
Flight # _____), and my estimated time of arrival is _____.

I request transportation to MCC Portland when I arrive _____.

I will/will not (circle one) be worshipping with MCC Portland on Sunday, Jan. 29.

I will need transportation from MCC Portland to arrive at the bus station/
train station/airport (circle one) on January _____ at _____ am/pm.

1978 EASTERN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

MARCH 9,10, 11

LAKE BYRD LODGE, AVON PARK, FLORIDA

SCHEDULE:

Thursday, March 9

9:00 to 10:00 am	Breakfast and Registration
10:00 to 11:00 am	WORSHIP SERVICE
Noon to 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 to 5:00 pm	S.T.I. SEMINARS

S.O.S.: SPEAKING ON SEXUALITY
Rev. Karen Wheeler & Rev. Angie Umbertino

MCC AND THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL: Ecumenical Relations
Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson

5:30 to 6:30 pm	Dinner
7:00 to 10:00 pm	BECOMING REAL ABOUT FAITH AND SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE Workshop and Discussion: Rev. F. Jay Deacon

Friday, March 10

8:00 to 9:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 to 11:00 am	REPORT: The Subcommittee on Standards of the Ministerial Credentials and Affairs Committee
Noon to 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 to 5:00 pm	MANAGEMENT FOR MINISTRY -- Dr. Kenneth B. Woodside This seminar includes understanding management as a part of ministry, evaluation of leadership styles, time management, theology of power, etc.
6:00 to 7:00 pm	Dinner
7:30 pm	WORSHIP SERVICE

Saturday, March 11

8:00 to 9:00 am	Breakfast
9:30 to 11:00 am	MANAGEMENT FOR MINISTRY (Continued)
Noon to 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 to 5:00 pm	S.T.I. SEMINARS (Repeated)

(Dr. Woodside will be available for consultation.)

6:00 to 7:00 pm	Dinner
7:30 pm	WORSHIP SERVICE

NOTE: ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE PREPAID AND MUST BE POST MARKED NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 20, 1978.

If you plan to attend the Eastern Ministers' Conference, please complete the enclosed registration form, making checks payable to UFMCC - Ministers' Conference, and return to:

UFMCC Ministers' Conference
POB 5570
Los Angeles, California 90055

February 27, 1978

Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Moderator
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches
P.O. Box 5570
Los Angeles, Calif. 90055

Dear Troy:

This is in the form of a shout of Hallelujah!

If you remember Providence as a hard-luck church, you would never recognize the group now. Within the last few months we have begun to build our group up again, to the point that we now have approx. 50 in church each week. Our offerings are good -- not great, but by New England standards good. We are becoming a real community -- and being better accepted by the greater community.

During the recent snowstorm, for instance, MCC and our host church, Mathewson Methodist were open as a shelter. Approximately 175 men, women, and children were stranded with us. We had derelicts and company presidents, a 6 month old and a number of 80 year olds, emotional problem people and some very swift and able people. For 6 days they were all stranded together until the Army and Nat. Guard could unblock the highway (I95 -- which was totally inoperable due to abandoned cars). Temperatures were as low as 10°F. and the derelict's usual source of good (McCauley House) was closed because of lack of food and staff.

MCC members Paul Paoletti, Dean Whitten (our organist), Don Poisson (a nurse), Sally Gabb, Ray Lariviere, Arlene Roy, Billy Menzer; as well as Mathewson St. United Methodist Church members Tom Calhoun and Tom Schrader kept the shelter open around the clock, feeding our shelter and a shelter at the YMCA, the Outlet Dept. Store, a number of banks and public buildings, etc. as well as the Police and Fire Departments, Civil Defense Workers, the National Guard working in downtown Providence, 30 Marines, snowplow drivers, etc. for a total of 1350 people a day -- and for a while nearly that many at ~~around~~ a meal.

I was invited by the Methodists to report to them on the shelter at their Sunday am. service the following week (which service was broadcast locally), and to describe the working interaction between our two churches. Dr. Wilbur Zeigler, their pastor, and I later had a debriefing in which we discussed ways in which their church could be more involved, since ours carried almost the total responsibility for the success of the shelter. Their church received almost all the publicity, however.

On the Sunday following the storm, we had 10 in church -- all roads were still closed and except for a few who could walk (or who were there because of the shelter). We were surprised we had that many --

February 27, 1978

Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Moderator
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches
P.O. Box 5570
Los Angeles, Calif. 90052

Dear Troy:

This is in the form of a short of Hallofujah!

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During the recent snowstorm, for instance, MOC and our host church, Mathewson Methodist were open as a shelter. Approximately 175 men, women, and children were stranded with us. We had delicatessen and company president, a 6 month old and a number of 60 year olds, emotional group-therapists and some very swift and able people. For 6 days they were all stranded together until the Army and Nat. Guard could unlock the highway (195 -- which was totally impassable due to abandoned cars). Temperatures were as low as 10°, and the delicatessen's usual source of food (McCauley House) was closed because of lack of food and staff.

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On the Sunday following the storm, we had 10 in church -- all roads were still closed and except for a few who could walk (or who were there because of the shelter) we were stranded and had that more --

and our offering was \$17.00. No banks had been open. No one had been paid. We emptied our pockets of change, etc. The following week, the Lord being extremely gracious to us, we received Rev. Michael Nordstrom's tithe as well as back tithes from many members and our offering was \$366.00 -- nearly 3 times our usual offering.

You would not know this church. There is such love, such ~~spirit~~ spirit and such a feeling of the presence of the Lord in our midst. As you are probably aware, we have between 24 and 29 children connected with the church. Often we have 10-15 children present in a service. At our weekly potluck suppers we often have that many children present also. We have presented programs for the training of gay parents, and have a research project beginning which will utilize our gay parents and their children in a study dealing with open rap for gay parents, their ex-spouses, and their children to help them arrive at acceptability of the situation and better mental health for the children.

Much is going on -- too much for one letter. We have an ecumenical study project, which will explain the differences in worship practices of Protestant groups to our church which is 80% ex-Catholic (and likewise to explain to our few Protestants why our Catholic members have the expectations they do) by actually demonstrating in our services each Sunday the worship of a different group. We have had a Presbyterian service, a Catholic mass (with a visiting priest), and are expecting a Black Baptist choir, organist, and preacher (friendly to gays) in two weeks. (Unluckily -- although gratefully -- I will be at Eastern Minister's Conference that week.) Our host pastor, Dr. Zeigler, will preside over a typical Methodist service for us before we are finished. We have also invited Susan Hiatt (one of the Episcopal priests) to preside over an Episcopal service for us.

At some point we will then sit down and look at our own liturgy and decide what we want to include, how we want to structure it, and put together a form of worship which will be uniquely ours. That way a church which is overwhelmingly ex-Catholic and an ex-Baptist minister will have arrived at a synthesis with which we can all live. No-one can then say they had no choice in the structuring of the service. Every one will have a chance for input and be involved in the decision.

I have enclosed the xeroxes of the articles from the local paper about the shelter. Thought you might like to look at them.

Keep us in prayer. We're going great guns and if we can maintain the fellowship and caring that is going on now, we should be back among the N.E. District's chartered churches very soon.

I hope you will be at Eastern Minister's Conference. It's been a hard winter and I need a taste of your kind of enthusiasm, the warmth of Florida, and that old MCC spirit. I know why I spent 12 years in New Orleans -- it was to avoid New England winters!

Love to you all.

Marge Ragona

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Love to you all.

Marye Rayson

May 4, 1978

Mr. Francis Joachim
Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches
P.O. Box 5570
Los Angeles, California 90055

Dear Francis:

Thank you for passing along Toronto's letter. I have written them regarding the crosses.

Belle Pellegrino's family is in the jewelry business and she has made the crosses available to us at a price which enables us to make a small profit, pass them along at a price which permits the churches to make a 50% profit, and still lets the crosses be sold for about \$3.00. (Some charge more, of course.)

We sell them a rhodium plated cross (white metal) on a good strong chain for \$18.00 dozen (minimum order). The crosses eventually discolor, but some people like them better that way. I've had one for four years that has gotten older but still looks pretty good. I wear it daily but generally over clothing. If they are worn next to the skin they tend to discolor more rapidly.

If anyone else asks, we thank you for putting them in touch with us.

Again, thanks for the note from Toronto.

I loved being in Syracuse -- Bob Freeman-Jones has a really delightful group of people there and they are growing well and becoming a real asset to the Fellowship. They did a liturgical dance as part of their anniversary service that was really somethin'.

Be in prayer for us: Ed Hougen, Jay Deacon, Shelley Hamilton and I in this district are going to do Lee Carlton's fast for justice. Neither Ed nor I have ever attempted anything like this, and we need everyone's prayers.

We love you and miss you. District Conference is coming up, and I wish you were here! (A&O and Brooklyn really need someone like you!)

Love, In Christ,

Love, In Christ,

You!
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Be in prayer for us: Ed Houghton, Jay Deacon, Shelby Hamilton and

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has made the crosses available to us at a price which enables
Belle Fellowship's family is in the jewelry business and she

them regarding the crosses.
Thank you for passing along Toronto's letter. I have written

Dear Francis:

Los Angeles, California 90052

P.O. Box 9570
Metropolitan Community Churches
Universal Fellowship of

Mr. Francis Joseph

May 12, 1978

May 6, 1978

Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry
P.O. Box 5570
Los Angeles, Calif. 90055

Dear Troy:

I am in receipt of Lee Carlton's letter asking us to fast on the steps of our Federal Buildings.

Yes, I will join with other clergy of the UFMCC in fasting for human rights. I will fast for 7 days.

You may count on MCC Providence, R.I. to join in the 7 days of worldwide prayer around the clock. Our chapel will be open for prayer and people will be here 24 hours a day.

I have also contacted the Rhode Island Council of Churches asking for their support.

In Christ's love,

Rev. Marjorie Ragona

mfr

May 6, 1978

Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry
P.O. Box 5270
Los Angeles, Calif. 90052

Dear Troy:

I am in receipt of Leo Carleton's letter asking us to fast on the steps of our Federal Buildings.

Yes, I will join with other clergy of the UFMOC in fasting for human rights. I will fast for 7 days.

You may count on MOC Providence, R.I. to join in the 7 days of worldwide prayer around the clock. Our chapel will be open for prayer and people will be here 24 hours a day.

I have also contacted the Rhode Island Council of Churches asking for their support.

In Christ's love,

Rev. Marjorie Rogers

mfr

November 15, 1977

International Office
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan
Community Churches
P.O. Box 5570
Los Angeles, Calif. 90055

Dear Friends in Christ:

Enclosed please find a xerocopy of the Dissolution of Holy Union for Delores Moone and Barbara Brites, originally performed in Boston in 1974.

Do you have any other copies of the original form. This was the only one available and we did not think to xerox it and use copies. I would be very grateful for even 1 copy for our use.

Providence is shaping up, and we are beginning to get ourselves back in shape. I would appreciate your passing that message along to Rev. Elder Perry. I expect us to be out of the woods by January or February, if we continue the momentum we have right now.

I am also enclosing an article which was printed in Gay Community News of Boston -- if you will forgive the ego trip -- which you all might like to see.

Also: Is a copy of Rev. Stan Harris' ordination thesis, "A Minister's Handbook", or something to that effect, available. I would be glad to pay for it if there is a charge. I have heard good things about it. Also: Rev. Frank Scott's ordination thesis dealt with Transactional Analysis. Is that available. I will also pay for a copy of that, if you will bill me.

Regards to all of you out there. We remember you in our prayers, please do the same for us.

In Christian love and fellowship,

Sincerely,

Rev. Marge Ragona

mfr

November 15, 1977

International Office
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan
Community Churches
P.O. Box 2570
Los Angeles, Calif. 90022

Dear Friends in Christ:

Enclosed please find a xerocopy of the Dissolution of Holy
Union for Delores Moore and Barbara Brites, originally
performed in Boston in 1974.

Do you have any other copies of the original form. This was
the only one available and we did not think to xerox it and
use copies. I would be very grateful for even 1 copy for
our use.

Providence is shaping up, and we are beginning to get our-
selves back in shape. I would appreciate your passing that
message along to Rev. Rider Perry. I expect us to be out
of the woods by January or February. If we continue the
momentum we have right now.

I am also enclosing an article which was printed in Gay Commu-
nity News of Boston -- if you will forgive the ego trip --
which you all might like to see.

Also: Is a copy of Rev. Stan Harris' ordination thesis, "A
Minister's Handbook", or something to that effect, available.
I would be glad to pay for it if there is a charge. I have
heard good things about it. Also: Rev. Frank Scott's ordination
thesis dealt with Transsexual Analysis. Is that available.
I will also pay for a copy of that, if you will bill me.

Regards to all of you out there. We remember you in our prayers,
please do the same for us.

In Christian love and fellowship,

Sincerely,

Rev. Marge Rogers

mlr

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The Reverend Troy D. Perry, Founder



Post Office Box 5570 - Los Angeles, California 90055

(213) 680-2111

December 29, 1977

The Reverend Marge Ragona
c/o MCC Providence
POB 1462, Annex Station
Providence, R.I. 02901

Dear Marge,

In following up your order to Church Services for one copy each of Stan Harris' and Frank Scott's ordination papers, I have discovered that the former director of publications failed to enter your order. We have corrected that and a copy of Stan's paper will be shipped to you this week.

Frank Scott's paper is not published and is not available from Church Services and Publications at this time...I would suggest that you ask him for a photo copy.

I'm sorry that this delay has occurred and hope that it has not been an inconvenience to you. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely In Christ,

Carol

(Rev.) Carol S. Cureton
Clerk, Board of Elders

CC/

KEEPING

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE



IN TOUCH

OF THE BOARD OF ELDERS

DECEMBER 1977

Dear Congregations:

The Board of Elders would like to take this time to wish all of you a most *blessed Christmas* and a *happy and joyous New Year*. Let us all pray that God will give the Universal Fellowship a most prosperous year as we work in God's vineyard.

As the Universal Fellowship goes into 1978, several of our church groups and ministers are still suffering the fallout of Anita Bryant and the vote in Dade County, Florida. *King of Peace MCC in St. Petersburg, Florida*, was totally destroyed by a fire on October 4th. The fire department says it was due to faulty wiring. In *Phoenix, Arizona*, our church building was firebombed and burned; the fire department says it was arson, and the building was destroyed and is a total loss. This building was the first church building purchased and owned by any local congregation in the Fellowship.

If you wish to send a love-offering to these groups, please do so now. The addresses are:

King of Peace MCC
P.O. Box 7844
St. Petersburg, FL 33734

Casa de Cristo MCC
P.O. Box 21064
Phoenix, AZ 85036

Another matter of concern is the dismissal of *Rev. Evan St. Ives* by the bank for which he worked for "being a homosexual." On November 3rd *Rev. St. Ives* was called into the personnel office of the *Ellis Sarasota Bank and Trust Company* where he served as head teller for over 30 employees. At that meeting with the president and personnel officer he was told that information had been given to them by a "concerned party" regarding his being the pastor of *MCC Sarasota*. On Monday, November 7th, *Rev. St. Ives* was again called into the personnel officer's presence and told that his continued employment at the bank could possibly "disturb the community image of the bank." A defense committee has been formed within the *MCC community of Sarasota/Bradenton*, the sole purpose of which is to coordinate publicity and fund-raising for *Rev. St. Ives*, and for the *A.C.L.U.* attorney, *Mr. Larry Spaulding*, who will be handling the case. The committee chairperson is *Betty Darville*; the treasurer is *Scott Phipps*. Donations may be sent to: the *Evan St. Ives Defense Fund*, c/o *Sarasota MCC*, or to: 6036 Mirror Lake Road, *Sarasota, FL 33583*. For further information, please contact *Betty* at the above address or phone (813) 924-7327.

Good things are happening in other parts of our church family. *Rev. Elder Freda Smith* left California on December 3rd to visit our congregations in England. She will return December 22nd. Please note: *IN UNITY* made a mistake in listing the District Officers for England. The *Rev. Valerie Bouchard* is erroneously listed as the Extension Officer for Great Britain; the correct person is *Jose VonBühler*. His address is: *MCC Thames Valley, 2 Bayford Close, Fernhill Park, Hawley near Camberley, Hampshire, England*.

There are used, *non-denominational hymnals* available for the cost of postage (about \$.16 per hymnal). Anyone interested should write to: *Diane Wales, 421 Filyaw Rd., No. 2, Fayetteville, N.C. 28303*.

DISTRICT UP-DATE

Many of our Districts have just recently elected new officers, and a new District has been formed on the Eastern coast of the USA, so the following listing is provided for your information.

Australasian District: *Rev. Jan Weymouth, D.C., POB 317, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane, QLD, 4006, Australia*.

Canadian District: *The Rev. Robert S. Wolfe, D.C., POB 5178, Vancouver, B.C., V6B 4B2, Canada*.

Church Extension Area of Great Britain & Western Europe: *Mr. Jose VonBühler, Church Extension Officer, 2 Bayford Close-Fernhill Park, Hawley Nr. Camberley, Hampshire, England*.

Mid-Atlantic District: *The Rev. Frank Scott, D.C., POB 9045, Pittsburgh, PA, 15224*. (Includes the States of Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Southern New Jersey, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania.)

Mid-Central District: *The Rev. Art Ramirez, D.C., POB 2639, Wichita, Kansas, 67201*. (Includes States of Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri —excluding Joplin/Springfield Area, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Wyoming.)

Northeast District: *The Rev. Edward Hougen, D.C., 131 Cambridge St., Boston, MA, 02114*. (Includes States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Northern New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.)

South Central District: *The Rev. Jeri Ann Harvey, D.C., POB 13731, Houston, Texas, 77091*. (Includes States of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, and the portion of Missouri surrounding the Joplin-Springfield area.)

Southeast District: *The Rev. Joseph Gilbert, D.C., POB 370963, Miami, Florida, 33137*. (Includes States of Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi.)

Southwest District: *The Rev. L. Robert Arthur, D.C., POB 5570, Los Angeles, California, 90055*. (Includes States of Arizona, Southern California, Southern Nevada, and New Mexico.)

Northwest District: *The Rev. Stanley A. Roberts, D.C., POB 2288, San Jose, CA, 95109*. (Includes States of Alaska, Northern California, Northern Nevada, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.)

South Atlantic District: The Rev. Tom Bigelow, D.C., POB 22187, Nashville, Tennessee, 37202. (Includes States of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Virginia.)

THE 1978 MINISTERS' CONFERENCES are as FOLLOWS:

WESTERN Ministers' Conference: Portland Oregon, January 26, 27 and 28.

EASTERN Ministers' Conference: Avon Park, Florida, March 9, 10 and 11.

Registration forms have been sent to you. **PRE-REGISTRATION** is required. Be sure to send yours without delay!

Rev. Bob Arthur has announced that the *Prison Ministry Handbook* has been brailled without cost to the Fellowship, and is available to anyone who wishes it through the *Braille Institute* in Los Angeles for under \$ 5.00 per copy.

ATTENTION PULPIT COMMITTEES:

The Fellowship Clerk is now able to supply to you a list of Ministers who have indicated on their monthly report forms that they are available for relocation. Please request this list by writing to Rev. Cureton, POB 5570, Los Angeles, CA 90055. As you request this information, your church group will be listed as seeking a minister.

ATTENTION MINISTERS

We are now using the listings on the bottom of your monthly report forms to prepare a list of "available" ministers. If you are seeking a new church home, please check the appropriate places on the form, and a list of church groups who are seeking ministers will be sent to you. If you indicate that the information is "confidential", your name will not be published until we are notified by you that you are removing that restriction.

BY-LAWS AVAILABLE

The printed copies of the By-Laws are now available from the Church Services Department. They are identified as catalog number E-003, and cost 35 cents each.

PUBLICATIONS AND CHURCH SERVICES REORGANIZED

The Departments of Publications and Church Services have been combined under the direction of one person, the Rev. Larry Bernier, who will, along with one full-time secretary, be reorganizing that area in an effort to better serve you. Beginning in February you can expect prompt delivery of your copies of *IN UNITY*.

You can help by sending your orders for materials to the attention of the proper department, in writing. Please do not include orders in general correspondence letters. If you do these things, and do not receive the service you think you should, *tell us directly*. We want to know, because we are here to serve you.

NOTICE

NOTICE

NOTICE

Some of the "older" vintage report forms for ministers, worship coordinators, etc., still have the OLD Fellowship post office box number (36277) on them. These forms are in the process of revision, and we are still using them only because the new ones are not yet ready. PLEASE, brothers and sisters, send *everything* that must come to the Fellowship headquarters to the current post office box: POB 5570, Los Angeles, CA 90055.

Finally, for those of you who have not seen it, our General Conference in Denver was mentioned in the December issue of *Playboy* magazine . . . you might want to pick up a copy.

NEW ADDRESS FOR FELLOWSHIP CLERK

Correspondence for the Clerk of the Board of Elders should be directed to UFMCC, POB 5570, Los Angeles, CA, 90055. Please make this change in your records.



The Board of Institutional Ministry (USA) is currently bringing suit against the Federal Bureau of Prisons so that we might be allowed to minister to inmates there. The Federal Bureau presented a "2 pound" brief in court last week to which we must reply by January 30. To assist us in these efforts, the **PRIDE FOUNDATION**, based in San Francisco, has assigned one of their lawyers who has agreed to donate his time to help with this enormous task.

UFMCC WRITER SUBSIDIZED

The Rev. Bob Arthur, Director of Institutional Ministry (USA) has informed us that a former officer in another Christian denomination has officially agreed to pay his salary for two months if Rev. Arthur can take a leave of absence from his duties as Director to complete the writing of a book based on his pamphlet, "Homosexuality in the Light of Biblical Language and Culture."

PRISON MINISTRY RETREAT/WORKSHOP

The Board of Institutional Ministry (USA) is sponsoring a prison ministry retreat/workshop in beautiful Cambria Pines, California, to be held on February 17, 18, 19 and 20. They describe the retreat this way, "For the workshops we will divide the group into two sections. One workshop will be conducted by the official institutional chaplains (paid by the State of California) and one will be conducted by our own MCC Chaplains. Both workshops will be repeated in the afternoon. During the day on Saturday, all participants will be treated as prisoners, and must wear prison garb (bring your own blue jeans). The 'guards' will be former prisoners."

The total cost of the weekend, including breakfast and lunch on Saturday will be \$30.00 per person. If you are interested in more information, please write The Board of Institutional Ministry, POB 5570, LA, CA 90055.

CALIFORNIA FUND FOR HUMAN DIGNITY
313 WEST 9TH STREET, SUITE #608
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015

(213) 465-2961
(213) 680-2111 (Messages)

December 22, 1977

To: All Pastors, Worship Coordinators & Church Treasurers, U.F.M.C.C.
From: Troy D. Perry, Chairperson & James E. Sandmire, Treasurer
Re: Reporting responsibilities and tax considerations required by
United States and California law concerning donations to the Fund.

Dear Friends:

Please see that the Pastor or Worship Coordinator and Treasurer of each Church has a copy of this important memo. We wish to thank all of you and the members of your congregation for your support of Reverend Perry during his fast and your individual efforts to inform the community of its' implications. Under the Political Reform Act of 1974 passed by the California State Legislature, there are unique reporting responsibilities of the Fund and its' officers. In addition, there are specific limitations to activity under both the Internal Revenue Service and the California State regulations regarding tax exempt organizations. In order to fulfill our reporting obligations and to protect the tax exempt status of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, of which you are a part, we must ask you to read and comply with the following instructions if you have not already done so.

1. The Fund continues to receive contributions and needs them to complete its' work. If members of your congregation wish to fulfill pledges made earlier or to make new donations to the Fund (which are welcome) please ask them to do so by check or money order made out to the California Fund for Human Dignity. If you should receive such funds in checks or money orders made out to your individual Church, endorse the check or money order directly to the Fund and send it on without entering it in your books.
2. Please indicate to any past, present or future donors that any contributions to the Fund are not tax exempt even if the checks were made out to the Church.
3. In the past some of the Churches received cash contributions or checks made out to the Church which they deposited to the Church account and then wrote to the Fund a Church check covering that amount. The California Franchise Tax Board and the Fair Political Practices Commission have both ruled that this is a legal action if certain reporting responsibilities are fulfilled.

A. The Church Treasurer should make sure that such contributions, if they were entered on the Church books, should not be entered as

income. Instead it should be entered as a transitional item (cash in and cash out) of money given to the Church for transmittal to the Fund. We repeat that it is important that such donations not be entered as income. By the same reasoning, the Church check to the Fund should not be entered as an expenditure. A notation should be made on the books or a memo to the Board placed in the files of the Church that states that your local Church merely acted as an intermediary to transmit funds entrusted to it for the California Fund for Human Dignity, and that such activity has been ruled in accordance with law by the California Fair Political Practices Commission and by the California Franchise Tax Board in conversation with the Fund Treasurer on December 20 and 21, 1977.

B. If you forwarded a Church check that covered donations given to you for the Fund, please forward to us immediately the name, address and employer (designate self employed if that is appropriate) of each donor of \$50.00 or more. If you do not have this information, please inform us of that fact. (Once again, this applies only to Churches who sent contributions to the Fund by a Church check after having deposited individual donations to the Church account).

We regret any inconvenience these instructions may cause you. We are sure, however, you would want us to be in strict accordance with Federal and State law and that you understand the importance of upholding the integrity of the Fund and the tax exempt status of the Fellowship.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Rev. James Sandmire at the above address.

Sincerely,

Troy D. Perry
Chairperson

James E. Sandmire
Treasurer

JES/fkz

cc: Trustees:

Mr. Doug DeYoung
Mr. David Glascock
Ms. Patricia Underwood



Post Office Box 5570 - Los Angeles, California 90055

(213) 680-2111

December 9, 1977

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

Thank you so much for your prayers these last few weeks. I am still regaining my strength, but at a very fast pace. For that, I praise the Lord. Also, I want to thank so many of my brothers and sisters who fasted themselves along with me. For the most part of the sixteen days, I seemed to have an almost supernatural surge of power. Only on the fifth and sixth days, did I have real hunger pains. On the fourteenth day of the fast I made the mistake of taking a long, hot shower, which I immediately had to pay for. After I got out of the shower, I almost passed out and then became very nauseous. I went to bed and just hoped I would die, I felt so sick. Some of the ministers from Southern California prayed for me. On the fifteenth day, I woke up feeling better and rejoiced that I had made it through the night. As you all know, the sixteenth day of the fast made history.

I wish to thank the Board of Elders for their work during my fast. I did not ask them to contact all of you; that they did on their own without my input. You will never know how much I appreciated their spontaneous action and the spontaneity with which many of you people reacted in getting the message out to the U.F.M.C.C. membership.

I would like to share with you, if I may, the reason for my fast. As many of you know, Dade County, Florida has Ms. Anita Bryant; in California we have State Senator Briggs until the last three days of the Dade County campaign, when he and his wife flew to Florida to "give moral support to our good friend, Anita Bryant." After the vote in Miami, Senator Briggs came back to California and immediately tried to get a resolution passed in the California State Senate commending Ms. Bryant for her work in "saving our children." The resolution died for lack of a second.

Two weeks later the Senator then tried to introduce legislation in the State Senate to forbid gays from teaching in California schools. The bill died in the Education Committee. Senator Briggs has now gone to the voters of our State to try to get an initiative passed which would stop any openly gay woman or man from teaching in public schools here.

On September 6, I began fasting after prayer and a lot of thinking about the alarming implications of the Briggs effort.

On Wednesday, September 7, during the second day of my fast, I was involved with a daily worship service at Fellowship Headquarters as the celebrant for Communion when God let me know that God expected more from me than just praying about the Briggs initiative. I didn't see a vision, but it was as if there was a presence at the altar with me. God spoke to me and I knew I would have to fast until \$100,00.00 was raised to fight this kind of religious hypocrisy and oppression.

The Reverend Troy D. Perry, Founder

1991, 2000

December 9, 1977

Page two

On September 9, the fourth day of my fast, I announced to the press in Los Angeles that I would fast to the death, if necessary, to bring attention to the whole issue of the rights of gay people to work for a living.

There are many things I could tell you about the fast; however, let me just say it was undeniably one of the spiritual high points of my life. Again, I was impressed with the real feeling that our Fellowship must be the organization to give moral leadership to human rights struggles that continue around the world. This battle will not be an easy one, but I believe we can win it. As one of the writers of Scripture once said, "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

The fight is not over. While over \$100,000.00 in cash and pledges has been raised as seed money to fight the Briggs initiative in California, there is a real need for all of us to be aware that money alone will not win the war. It is time for each of us to pledge ourselves to the coming struggle with the forces of darkness and to make up our minds that with God on our side we shall not be moved in our determination to win our basic human rights.

In Christ,

Rev. *Troy D. Perry*

Reverend Troy D. Perry

TDP/fkz

December 9, 1957
Page Two

On September 2, the fourth day of my fast, I answered to the press in Los Angeles that I would fast to the death, if necessary, to bring attention to the whole issue of the rights of gay people to work for a living.

There are many things I could tell you about the fast; however, let me just say it was undoubtedly one of the most high points of my life. I was impressed with the fact that our fellowships were the organization to give moral leadership to human rights struggles and that we were around the world. This battle will not be an easy one, but I believe we can win it. As one of the writers of Scripture once said, "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

The fight is not over. While over \$100,000.00 in cash and pledges has been raised as seed money to fight the Hygiene Initiative in California, there is a real need for all of us to be aware that every single will win the battle. It is time for each of us to pledge ourselves to the coming struggle with the forces of darkness and to make up our minds that with God on our side we shall not be moved in our determination to win our basic human rights.

Respectfully,
Rev. J. W. Perry

Rev. J. W. Perry

THURSDAY

COMMISSION ON INNOVATIVE MINISTRIES

At the Eighth General Conference of UFMCC, it was decided to combine the Task Force on Alcoholism and the Task Force on Drug Abuse into a single Chemical Dependency Task Force. This step was taken because the consensus indicated that the two former Task Forces both dealt with "addictive personalities" and the addiction process. Many of the representatives attending had suffered dual addictions, and had applied, successfully, the same principles to each. Others reported on "NARCANON", "ADDICTS ANONYMOUS" and similar adaptations of the AA 12 Steps to chemicals other than alcohol.

One of the current goals of the Chemical Dependency Task Force is to update the Directory of Gay AA and ALCOHOLICS TOGETHER groups; and to expand it to include groups and resources for other chemical dependencies. The accompanying survey questionnaire has been designed to accomplish this. Please read it carefully, and fill it out conscientiously.

Another goal set was the establishment of "Support Groups" for Chemical Dependents which would include both the addicts and their spouses/friends. The concept indicates that addicts helping addicts must be on a recurring basis, not just a once-a-week reach out. There is a very real need for continuous caring, and support for each other. The groups are expected to grow and expand from the AA group concept. In an effort to meet this goal, we need information as to what is expected from such a group, how it should be formed and/or developed. The questionnaire provides a place for sharing your views, ideas, and comments with us.

The Southwest District Coordinator has indicated a willingness to help us financially, if other Districts will do the same. Please take this up at your District Conferences.

The Directories and the Gay Alcoholic and the Al-Anon literature have been distributed free in the past, because one person has generously contributed time, effort and money. That is no longer possible; in the future a nominal charge will have to be made to cover the expenses in order to keep these things, and new ones, available. The price per item will be determined as we find out the cost of printing and shipping.

The success of this outreach of MCC will depend upon your response to this questionnaire. We implore you to take the time and make the effort to fill it out completely.

We thank you, in the name of Christ, and in Christ's love.

Rev. Buff Fisher
Rev. Steven Quesnel
Co-Chairpersons
Chemical Dependency Task Force

Rev. Joan Johnson
Chairperson
Commission on Innovative Ministries

***Please return questionnaires to:

Rev. Buff Fisher
MCC Tuscon
POB 21064
Tuscon, Arizona 85726

CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY TASK FORCE

COMMISSION ON INNOVATIVE MINISTRIES

1977

The effectiveness of our Christian Outreach depends on you! Please complete this survey questionnaire today and return to: Rev. Buff Fisher, MCC Tuscon, POB 2164, Tuscon, Arizona 85726.

1. Is a part of your out-reach affiliated with or supportive of AA or A-T Programs? If yes, please indicate:

Average Attendance

Number of meetings per week

Type(s) of meeting(s)

(Please indicate Days/Times/Addresses/Contacts)

2. Is a part of your out-reach affiliated with or supportive of an Al-Anon Program? If yes, please indicate:

Average Attendance

Number of meetings per week

Please indicate Days/Times/Addresses/Contacts

3. Do you have an outreach to other Chemical Dependencies? If yes, please specify:
4. If item 3 is yes, is that outreach through your AA/AT outreach?

5. Please list other alcoholism treatment resources available in your city (Half-way Houses, Treatment and/or Detoxification Centers). List any information that you feel is appropriate:

6. Please list resources available for other chemical dependencies? List any information that you feel is appropriate:

7. Please share with us your thoughts and ideas about the proposed support groups. How can the Task Force be of the most help to you and your congregation?

Survey answered by

Representing (MCC Congregation, address, city & state/province):



Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

November 8, 1976

Ms. Marge Ragona
c/o MCC Boston
131 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Marge,

On behalf of the Board of Elders I would like to inform you that you have been appointed to serve on the Advisory Subcommittee of the Committee on Church Hymnody for the year 1976-77.

So that the work of the Committee may proceed as quickly and efficiently as possible please send your reply to the Chairperson of the Committee, The Reverend Larry Bernier, POB 5570, Los Angeles, CA 90055, with a copy to me at the address listed below.

It is our continued prayer that the Lord will continue to bless and guide your work as you seek to love and serve God's people.

Sincerely,
FOR THE BOARD OF ELDERS

Carol S. Cureton
(Rev.) Carol S. Cureton, Clerk
POB 3147
St. Louis, Missouri 63130

CC/

cc: file



THE UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES
Committee on Church Hymnody

Post Office Box 5570 - Los Angeles, California 90055

(213) 680-2111

14 February, 1978

TO: All Pastors, Worship Coordinators and Church Music Leaders
FR: Committee on Church Hymnody
RE: Hymnal Committee General Questionnaire

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Last year the Committee of Church Hymnody spent most of its time on fact-finding, information gathering, and preliminary planning and study for the new Fellowship hymnal. This year the Committee is concentrating on reaching out into the local congregations to determine their needs, feelings and ideas about this project.

Enclosed with this letter you will find copies of a questionnaire prepared by the Committee. We would like to have each pastor, worship coordinator and church music leader fill in a copy and return it to us at Fellowship Headquarters as soon as possible. There is one question which requires a polling of the congregation; we suggest that the worship and music leaders in the congregation work together to gather the information for this question.

We hope that this questionnaire will act as a catalyst -- a beginning point -- for local feedback on the new hymnal. It will provide us with some much-needed basic information, and will hopefully indicate to us what areas and concerns we must deal with more specifically as production time draws near.

Please don't forget the questionnaire, or delay in filling it out! We need to receive them back from you as soon as possible. Please mail completed questionnaires to: Rev. Larry Bernier, Committee of Church Hymnody, P.O. Box 5570, Los Angeles, California 90055.

May God bless and prosper each one of you. Please keep in touch; the Fellowship is all of God's people together, and we need to hear from you to know how best to serve your needs.

Sincerely, in the Lord's work,

Larry Bernier

Rev. Laurence G. Bernier
Committee on Church Hymnody



Post Office Box 5570 - Los Angeles, California 90055

February 23, 1978

Dear Minister:

As you know, the Sixth General Conference of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches held in 1975 passed a resolution calling for each of our Churches to receive a special love offering for World Church Extension during the month of February on the Sunday closest to Valentine's Day.

Fellowship General Offices have already received reports of many of our Churches who have received substantial offerings for this once-a-year drive. If you have not yet received your World Church Extension Offering, please do so in the next two or three Sundays and send it to the Treasurer's office of the Fellowship, earmarked for World Church Extension.

As you know, the Universal Fellowship is now ministering in seven countries; Australia, Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand, South Africa, Nigeria and the United States of America. We in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches have a real opportunity to see the good news of Jesus Christ preached in all the world. The Board of Elders has received letters from ministers in India, Germany and Mexico, who we believe have the calling and ability to start new works for the Fellowship in these countries. Our only hold up is the need of contributions to fund these individuals until we can get these works stabilized.

The gifts of each of our Churches will be listed in the coming issues of IN UNITY and KEEPING IN TOUCH.

In Christ,

Rev. Troy D. Perry
Reverend Troy D. Perry

TDP/fkz

The Reverend Troy D. Perry, Founder

KEEPING IN TOUCH



FEBRUARY 1978

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF ELDERS

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

The Board of Elders is happy to announce that the 9th General Conference of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the parent Church, as well as our denomination, will be held August 13-19, 1979, in Los Angeles, California. The Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles will be the site of this historical conference. Full information about the conference programs, as well as the cost of hotel rooms, will be forthcoming in the next few months.

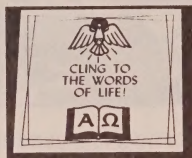
The Board of Institutional Ministry (USA) Executive Director, Rev. Robert Arthur, has announced the formation of the Canadian Board of Institutional Ministry, directed by Rev. JoAnne Monti. The address is: U.F.M.C.C. Canadian Board of Institutional Ministry, Rev. JoAnne Monti, 2322 Lincoln Street West, No. 5, Montreal, Quebec, H3H 1J4, Canada.

The Australasia District Conference has announced the election of Rev. Arthur Cazeault as the new District Coordinator for that area. Rev. Cazeault has served in the Universal Fellowship for the past five years. He was founding pastor of MCC Providence, Rhode Island and has served as an associate minister on the staff of MCC Atlanta, Georgia. Rev. Cazeault has served for the past two years as Pastor of MCC Melbourne, Australia. The new District Office Address is: Rev. Arthur Cazeault, District Coordinator, 62 West Toorak Road, South Yarra, Victoria, Australia 3141.

The Board of Elders was delighted to have Rev. Jose Von Buhler, Church Extension Officer for Great Britain, attending the Coordinators' and Elders meeting. A full report on his visit will be carried in *In Unity*.

Keeping In Touch requests that all our Church bodies remember Rev. Robert Wolfe, Coordinator of Church Extension in Canada, in your prayers. Rev. Wolfe was operated on in December, and a cancer removed from his bladder. The U.F.M.C.C. does believe in healing and we know God is able. Besides serving as Coordinator of Church Extension in Canada, Rev. Wolfe is Pastor of MCC Vancouver, British Columbia.

Sunday, January 15, 1978, was the date of the dedication of the new facility of the MCC in the Valley, North Hollywood, California. Over 300 people joined with Pastor Randy Cypherd for this special event. On hand for the dedication were numerous MCC clergy, several politicians, including a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, a California State Senator, a member of the California State Assembly, and members of the Los Angeles City Council. The five-year-old congregation has been meeting for the last three years in a rented, converted auto garage. The new property purchased by the Church is appraised at \$200,000.00.



Rev. Jeri Ann Harvey, Pastor of MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, Texas, reports that a cross was burned on the lawn of the Church January 5. The local police could find no fingerprints after the fire. The next day the local KKK started running a phone message concerning the "queer" Church in Houston, giving in their message the name and address of our Church and praising Anita Bryant. (A full story on Houston will be carried in a future issue of *In Unity*. The FBI has entered the case to see if any of the MCC members' civil rights have been violated.) Speaking of Ms. Bryant, Rev. Joseph Gilbert, Pastor of MCC Miami, has written Fellowship Headquarters requesting that we help educate Ms. Bryant by sending her newspaper clippings about heterosexual assault, child abuse, rape, and other strange non-gay behavior. Please send your clippings to: Ms. Anita Bryant, c/o Protect America's Children, POB 402745, Miami, Florida 33140.

As many of you are aware, the Commission on Innovative Ministries has recently sent to local Church bodies of this Fellowship a survey questionnaire concerning chemical dependency. You were asked to return the questionnaires to Rev. Buff Fisher in Tucson, Arizona. Please note the address given in the letter was incorrect. The correct address is: Rev. Buff Fisher, POB 27628, Tucson, AZ 85726.

Our denomination is extremely fortunate to have many young people currently attending top-rate Universities and Seminaries in the countries where we have Churches. Most of the students have been able to receive scholarships or grants to pay for their schooling. However, this last week, Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry received word that one of our ministry students who is attending a seminary and working on his Doctor of Ministries degree, needs \$400.00 to pay some educational cost by the end of January if he is to remain in school. Rev. Perry is sure that there are some members of our Churches who would like to help this brother out. If you are able to help, please send your check today to: Scholarship Fund, c/o UFMCC, POB 5570, Los Angeles, CA, 90055.

THE CHURCH IN TRANSITION:

The following Churches in our Fellowship are seeking Pastors:

Good Shepherd Parish MCC, Chicago, Illinois
MCC, Greensboro, North Carolina
Christ the King MCC, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
MCC, Dallas, Texas
Agape MCC, Fort Worth, Texas
MCC Toronto, Canada

Rev. Clifford Conners is the new Pastor of MCC Sydney, Australia.

Ms. Rita Wanstrom has been appointed Worship Coordinator of MCC of the Ozarks, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

MCC Study Group, Fresno, California, has a new Worship Coordinator, the Rev. Steven Quesnell.

Rev. Jim Dykes is the new Pastor of West Bay MCC, Santa Monica, California.

MCC Jacksonville, Florida has called Rev. Lee J. Carlton as their new Pastor.

Revs. Angie Umbertino and Karen Wheeler are being installed at the end of January as Co-Pastors of MCC Akron, Ohio.

Rev. Howard J. Gaass is the new Pastor of MCC Cincinnati, Ohio.

Rev. Keith Davis is the interim Pastor of MCC Columbia, South Carolina.

EASTERN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

Please remember that the Eastern Ministers' Conference will take place in Avon Park, Florida, March 9-12, 1978. If you have not registered, do so now. This meeting is open to licensed and ordained ministers and their significant others ONLY.

THE TWENTY TOP CHURCHES IN TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR DECEMBER ARE:

1. Los Angeles	\$6516.90
2. North Hollywood	5015.10
3. Dallas	4248.00
4. Washington, D.C.	4118.00
5. Chicago	3603.20
6. San Diego	3433.30
7. Houston	3138.80
8. Kansas City	3127.70
9. San Francisco	3109.20
10. St. Louis	2976.60
11. Wichita	2122.20
12. San Jose	2120.70
13. Denver	2016.80
14. Portland	2008.60
15. Detroit	1990.90
16. Sacramento	1718.30
17. Fort Lauderdale	1684.10
18. Tampa	1605.70
19. Cincinnati	1525.00
20. Twin Cities (Minneapolis/St. Paul)	1361.50



Post Office Box 5570 - Los Angeles, California 90055

January 17, 1978

PROCEDURE LETTER:

In response to the question: Since UFMCC By-Laws require that a two week written notice of congregational meetings be given to all members, may persons who join a local MCC congregation during the two weeks between the time of the written notice and the announced meeting vote at that meeting?

Elders' Interpretation:

Persons must be members of local MCC church bodies at least two weeks prior to a congregational meeting in order to have voting privileges at that meeting.

The preceding information is supplied to you pursuant to Article V.B.1.c of the By-Laws of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

FOR THE BOARD OF ELDERS

Carol S. Cureton
(Rev.) Carol S. Cureton
Clerk

CC/

The Reverend Troy D. Perry, Founder



Post Office Box 5570 - Los Angeles, California 90055

UFMCC Form B-005

February 1978

PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROFESSIONAL MINISTRY
(Supersedes all previous forms.)

REQUIREMENTS:

Candidates for the licensed ministry shall meet the following minimum requirements to be considered by the Ministerial Credentials and Affairs Committee of the Fellowship. However, meeting these requirements does NOT guarantee that license will be granted.

1) Member in good standing of a local MCC for at least one year prior to meeting with the District Review Committee (any exception must be authorized by the Board of Elders.)

2) Licensed Exhorter of a local Chartered MCC for at least six months prior to meeting with the District Review Committee (D.R.C.) - OR- a person holding ministerial credentials in another recognized denomination whose intent to pursue the professional ministry within the Fellowship has been made clearly known (in writing) to the local District Coordinator AND the Board of Elders at least six months prior to making application to the D.R.C. for the UFMCC ministry. This intent is expressed through the Pastor and the Board of Directors of the local MCC, of which the candidate is a member. (Any exception must be authorized by the Board of Elders.)

3) A total of 60 credit hours (two academic years) in relevant subjects from an accepted college or bible school (including correspondence courses) -OR- two years concentrated training in a recognized seminary -OR- four years of active lay or professional ministry in a recognized religious body -OR- an acceptable combination of the preceding three items.

4) A written statement, no longer than one typed page, on the candidate's opinions and understanding of Fellowship goals and procedures.

5) A 10-20 page paper, double-spaced typewritten, on the candidate's statement of Christian Faith and statement of Call to the Christian Ministry. The District Review Committee will read the paper and be prepared to discuss it with the candidate at the formal review during the designated District Conference. Recognizing the wide range of views within the Christian Faith, no candidate is to be rejected solely on the grounds of theological differences with the member(s) of the committee; however, Fellowship doctrines as specified in the By-Laws must be considered. Also, candidates are expected to appreciate the diversity of theological views within mainstream Christianity.

6) Two book reviews on full-length publications related to spiritual growth, church administration, theology, or similar subjects -AND- a bibliography of books read within the past year with the candidate prepared to discuss these books.

The candidates for licensing will be evaluated on their involvement in their local MCC, their maturity, their reliability in service, their consistency in purpose, their training and experience, and their loyalty to the Fellowship, among other things. Ministers working within the framework of the Fellowship must have abilities and qualities that will permit them to properly represent the Fellowship; therefore, candidates who have credentials from another denomination must meet all of the above requirements. The decision of the D.R.C. is final.

The Reverend Troy D. Perry, Founder

The license of the Licensed Minister expires automatically after one year, and to continue ministry within the Fellowship, application for RE-LICENSE must be made. The application for re-license is to be accompanied by book reviews and a bibliography, as described in Item 6, above.

If a licensed minister is denied re-relicense, (s)he may appeal that decision to the MCAC (see procedures).

WORLD CHURCH EXTENSION MINISTRY

Recognizing special needs in the areas of World Church Extension, a request for licensure of a candidate serving in an area of World Church Extension that has not been named as a District by the Board of Elders may be processed as follows:

If any Coordinator of Church Extension (after consulting with other Pastors in his/her jurisdiction) recommends the licensing of an individual, the Board of Elders will consider the application, and as needed and qualifications warrant, may license the individual. This license is to be reviewed by the Ministerial Credentials and Affairs Committee at the time of their next meeting.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ORDINATION

Candidates for ordination shall meet the following minimum requirements to be considered by the Ministerial Credentials and Affairs Committee of the Fellowship: (Note--meeting these requirements does NOT guarantee that ordination will be granted.)

1) Personal commitment to a full-time ministry in the Fellowship for the remainder of the candidate's professional life.

2) An active Licensed Minister in the Fellowship for at least one year. (NOTE: Ordination should by no means be considered automatic after having served one year as a licensed minister.)

3) A total of 90 credit hours (three academic years) in relevant subjects from an accepted college or bible school (including correspondence courses) -OR- equivalent experience in the ministry and applicable professional fields -OR- an acceptable combination of the preceding two items.

4) A 20-30 page thesis on a subject selected by the candidate and approved by the MCAC (see procedures). The material is to be an original research work by the candidate and is to be double-spaced typewritten with the original copy suitably bound for retention in the library of the Samaritan Theological Institute. The bound copy and four additional copies are to be processed with the application for ordination. This thesis is due two (2) months before the candidate is interviewed, and should be sent to the Chairperson of the MCAC.

The candidate for ordination will be evaluated on his/her commitment to the ministry, proven leadership abilities (spiritual and administrative), proven dedication and loyalty to the Fellowship, and personal example of Christian life, among other things.

PROCEDURES:

LICENSING: All applications for license (except for World Church Extension areas -- see above) must be processed first through the local church body in which membership is held, and then must be reviewed by the D.R.C. at the designated Conference. In order for a person to be licensed, (s)he must be

unanimously approved by the D.R.C. The decision of the D.R.C. is final. The license goes into effect at the July/August meeting of the MCAC, when they receive the reports of the D.R.C., and report the results to the Clerk of the Board of Elders. Upon receiving the report of the MCAC, the Clerk of the Board of Elders will issue licenses to all recognized UFMCC ministers.

RE-LICENSING: In order to be re-licensed, every licensed minister must process his/her application first through his/her local church body (same as above), and then through the D.R.C. If the decision of the D.R.C. is to re-license, that decision is final. The renewed license will be issued by the Clerk of the Board of Elders after the MCAC receives the report of the D.R.C. and reports it to the Clerk.

If the decision to relicense is not unanimous, or if it is a negative decision, the licensed minister may appeal that decision to the MCAC at their July/August meeting, either in writing, or in person. The request for appeal must be made in writing to the Chairperson of the MCAC at least TWO WEEKS prior to the meeting, or the appeal may not be considered.

The decision of the MCAC is final. (There is NO appeal to the Board of Elders.)

ORDINATION CANDIDACY AND ORDINATION

A minister who has been licensed for one year may submit an application for ordination to the D.R.C. If recommended by the D.R.C. the minister will then submit the application, together with the title and proposed outline for the thesis topic, to the Chairperson of the MCAC, requesting an appointment to meet with the MCAC interview team at their next scheduled meeting. If the MCAC approves the thesis topic, the applicant will be considered a candidate for ordination.

The ordination candidate should schedule an appointment with the MCAC during a future meeting to request final approval for ordination. The candidate may be requested to submit additional materials (transcripts, certificates, evaluations, etc.) to update the application during the candidacy period. The ordination thesis is due two months before the final interview.

THE DISTRICT REVIEW COMMITTEES

The District Review Committees (D.R.C.) for each District will consist of three ministers appointed by the Board of Elders. These persons may not be on the Board of Elders, or voting members of the UFMCC MCAC. Members of the District Review Committees are ex-officio members of the MCAC, with voice but no vote. When possible, the members of the D.R.C. will be ministers who reside in the District and will be ordained ministers. If a licensed minister is appointed, his/her application for Re-license must be reviewed by the UFMCC MCAC, and will not be reviewed by the D.R.C.



Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

110 MARYLAND AVE., N.E., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002 (202) 543-2260

Dear Friends:

As you are no doubt aware, the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches maintains an office in Washington, DC.

We keep copies of various MCC publications in our office which are used not only by our own staff to keep us informed about what is going on with MCC congregations throughout the world, but are also available to those people who visit our office seeking information about the work of MCC. You can imagine how vital this information is in our work.

It is terribly important that our files remain current. We rely on you to send us your newsletter. Thus, we urge you to make sure that we are on your mailing list, and keep us up to date by sending us any publications you produce.

I appreciate tremendously your time and efforts in this matter. May God continue to bless your ministry.

Shalom,

R. Adam DeBaugh
Social Action Director

RAD/co

Proclaim Liberation in the Land.

May 29, 1978

Rev. Elder Troy Perry
P. O. Box 5570
Los Angeles, Calif. 90055

Dear Troy:

I received your letter questioning whether it was by oversight that Providence has not held an offering for World Church Extension at Valentines Day.

If you remember Valentine's coincided with the great Blizzard of 1978, and we were 40 inches under snow. It is not unlikely that considering the conditions here we were not thinking about World Church Extension that week. Our own offering was \$17.00. I would be glad to tithe that to World Church Extension.

During the next few weeks the Lord prospered us enough to keep us solvent -- but most of our church members were paying gas bills in exdess of \$150.00 month over their usual expensez, it being one of the coldest winters on record. The average salary of my church members is under \$100.00 a week, and 3 of my members have 6 children each -- which does eat into their small salaries.

When I arrived in Providence, we were 5 months behind in all of our tithes to the Fellowship, District, and our rent to our host church. We have managed to catch up -- th\$ Lord providing for our needs.

I am willing to take an offering for World Church Extension. However February and March were out of the question, and we have now gotten into the hardest time in this area for churches to stay open -- most of the mainline churches close for the summer. If England, Nigeria and So. Africa will hang on until later in the year, we will try to keep ourselves afloat and will be glad to share our largesse of the fall months with them. Winter and summer are just not the time when we can do it.

I doubt that anyone in Sunny California will understand this, but ask Larry Bernier what I mean and I'm sure he will explain. I love you all -- but we just don't have it right now. And I can't see sending you a ridiculously small offering which will not really convey our people's valuation of the work done overseas. If you can wait until Fall, our people will express their love and concern. We've taken a beating all winter -- and I don't blame my people for

May 29, 1978

Rev. Elder Troy Perry
P. O. Box 5270
Los Angeles, Calif. 90052

Dear Troy:

I received your letter questioning whether it was by oversight that Providence has not held an offering for World Church Extension at Valentine's Day.

If you remember Valentine's coincided with the great Blizzard of 1978, and we were 40 inches under snow. It is not unlikely that considering the conditions here we were not thinking about World Church Extension that week. Our own offering was \$17.00. I would be glad to fit in that to World Church Extension.

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I doubt that anyone in Sunny California will understand this, but ask Larry Fowler what I mean and I'll sure be able to explain. I love you all -- but we just don't have it right now. And I can't see sending you a ridiculously small offering which will not really convey our people's valuation of the work done overseas. If you can wait until Fall, our people will express their love and concern. We've taken a beating all winter -- and I don't blame my people for

running off to the seaside on Sundays. They've got it coming!
Even God must understand the rigors of a New England Winter --
God makes summer so damn nice up here!

By the way -- the Fellowship ought also to take up an offering
for suffering stateside churches having a hard time making it.
That too gets discouraging -- and no one ever takes time to drop
us a line and thank us for hanging in -- we do manage to get the
bills from y'all, though!

Love,

Marge



Post Office Box 5570 - Los Angeles, California 90055

(213) 680-2111

May 19, 1978

Rev. Marjorie F. Ragona
MCC-Providence
POB 1462
Providence, RI 02901

Dear Marj,

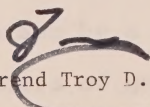
I'm sure it's an oversight, but Fellowship Offices have not received the February (Valentine's) offering for World Church Extension, and your Church is one of the few missing in the total received.

As you know, the General Conference of our Fellowship voted that a special offering would be taken each year to help fund those countries outside the United States of America that would need our help until they could become self-supporting. This year we are helping our works in England, Nigeria and South Africa.

Please check with your Treasurer to see if this offering has been sent so we may credit your account.

May the Lord continue to bless you in your work.

In Christ,


Reverend Troy D. Perry

TDP/fkz

P.S. Please send your offering check to the attention of:
World Church Extension Offering in care of the UFMCC
mailing address.

The Reverend Troy D. Perry, Founder



Executive Offices

373 North Western Avenue Suite 211 Los Angeles California 90004 213 462-0916

June 27, 1973

For Further Information
Contact Bob Ennis
462 0916 Office 935 6173 Home

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING FOR 29 HOMOSEXUALS BURNED TO DEATH IN NEW ORLEANS TRAGIC FIRE AT "UPSTAIRS BAR"

Sunday: July 1, 1973--Homosexuals, and all concerned persons are being called upon to observe a National Day of Mourning, for the 29 known men and women killed in the tragic fire at the "Upstairs Bar" in New Orleans, Louisiana on last Sunday evening, June 24th. 17 others are in hospitals in New Orleans, with 11 of them in critical condition.

Among those who died were the interim pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of New Orleans, and at least 10 other members of the church, who are yet to be identified and located in the ruins.

Officials in New Orleans to date, have not released any information, other than the death and injured totals, and that the fire was a result of arson by a person, or persons unknown.

Many leaders of gay organizations have flown to the scene from all over the United States, and are assisting in the investigation and lending assistance to families and friends of the dead and injured.

The Reverend Troy D. Perry, founder of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, telephoned from New Orleans; and stated that..."a meeting and press conference was held..(in attendance were, Mr. Morris Kight-Gay Services Center in Los Angeles: Mr. Marty Manford-Gay

(more)

Community Alliance of New York City: Reverend John Gill-Pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta, Georgia and Co-Ordinator of the Southeastern District of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, and Mr. Lucian Baril-Interim Co-Ordinator of the Metropolitan Community Church of New Orleans), expressing their concern for this tragic event; and requesting nationwide assistance in locating the guilty person or persons; and that many phone calls have been made across the United States, encouraging gay organizations and gay owned businesses to participate in the observance of this National Day of Mourning."

He further stated...."most everyone we have talked too are shocked and are asking what they can do to help. Many bars and nightclubs have agreed to close for a one-hour period, from 8 o'clock to 9 o'clock to observe the day of mourning--and churches and church groups that we have contacted will be holding special memorial services, as well as all 51 member churches of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches across the nation."

The Advocate, the leading nationwide newspaper of the gay community, will be the receivers of a "National New Orleans Memorial Fund" which is much needed to assist in burying the dead and helping those injured. Contributions may be sent to the National New Orleans Memorial Fund c/o the Advocate, Post Office Box 74695, Los Angeles, California 90004. The Trustees of the Memorial Fund are Reverend Troy D. Perry, Morris Kight, Marty Manford, John Gill, Lucian Baril and Dick Michaels of the Advocate Newspaper.

A Special Memorial Service will be held by the Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles, on Sunday Evening at 8:00 PM at the HELP CENTER, located at 7221 Santa Monica Blvd., with the Reverend Troy D.

(more)

Perry and Morris Kight officiating.

The Reverend Perry's closing statement was..."this is the most tragic ending of Gay Pride Week, (which was observed across the nation) where so many good and positive events resulted in a great number of new avenues of progress for the nation's homosexual community."

-0-

New Orleans Contact:
Reverend Troy D. Perry
Marriott Hotel
504 581 1000

There are some other officials.

The second party's closing statement was, "This is the only
 honest action of the whole world. Which was observed under the only
 honest action and the honest action resulted in a great number of
 and because of progress for the nation's development."

THE
 UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF
 JUSTICE
 WASHINGTON, D. C.
 MAY 1954



Executive Offices

373 North Western Avenue Suite 211 Los Angeles California 90004 213 462-0916

August 10, 1973

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

For Further Information Contact:
Bob Ennis 213 462 0916 or 213 935 6173

HOMOSEXUAL PASTOR SHOCKED BY MASS MURDERS

The Reverend Troy D. Perry, Pastor and Founder of the Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles; and Moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (some 51 Congregations across the United States & Great Britain); and author of "The Lord Is My Shepherd And He Knows I'm Gay"....expressed his shock at the discovery of the Houston, Texas mass murders.

Reverend Perry stated...."On behalf of all Congregations comprising the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, I wish to express our deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of the young victims murdered by Dean A. Coril in Houston.

I know that our membership throughout the United States who have learned of this sordid affair are just as shocked and angered as I am--and I am certain that this feeling prevails in the entire Gay Community and with all concerned citizens."

Mr. Perry further stated..."The responsibility for this tragedy must be laid at the feet of one demented man; whose actions and motivations are neither typical or condoned by homosexuals. To extend these atrocities to the entire Gay Community would be to needlessly and unfairly expand the scope of this tragedy."



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8. State the name of the person who is the author of the book.

1891

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

Quarterly Report for the Months of

April, May and June 1973

Cash in Bank as of 3/31/73	185.13
Deposits	4569.84
Check Returned	(50.33)
Deposit Correction	(3.00)
	<u>\$ 4728.64</u>

Expenditures:	
Office	1588.01
Transportation	843.12
Honorariums	1275.00
Publications	759.10
Donations	-0-
	<u>\$ 4465.23</u>

Cash in Bank as of 6/30/73	236.41
Cash on Hand as of 6/30/73	<u>77.17</u>
Total	\$313.58

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

Quarterly Report for the Month of

April, May and June 1973

Cash in Bank as of 3/31/73	185.13
Deposits	4569.94
Check Rec'd (4/25/73) (4/26/73)	113.00
Deposit Correction	(3.00)
	<u>\$ 4755.07</u>

Cash in Bank as of 6/30/73

Expenses	1300.24
Office	1388.01
Telephone	644.70
Postage	1178.00
Publications	759.10
Donations	-0-

Expenses

10/10	1300.24
10/10	1388.01
10/10	644.70
10/10	1178.00
10/10	759.10
10/10	-0-

Cash in Bank as of 6/30/73

Cash on Hand as of 6/30/73

\$212.58

Total

Cash in Bank as of 6/30/73

Cash on Hand as of 6/30/73

\$212.58

Total



TROY D. PERRY FOUNDATION

Post Office Box 74604 Los Angeles, California 90004
(213) 462-3774

April 15, 1973

Reverend Arthur R. Cazeault
Providence Mission
Metropolitan Community Church
290 Westminster Street #613
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Reverend Cazeault:

As you probably already know, I have resigned as Pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles; effective as of October 7, 1973; to devote full-time to the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. I have prayed and sought the face of the Lord: and I feel Him moving in this direction. I am stepping out completely by faith.

At this time, our Fellowship doesn't generate enough funds to place me on a full-time salary, from our 5% giving. Therefore, I have set up a Foundation from which I can draw some salary to supplement what will be given me by the Fellowship.

The Troy D. Perry Foundation will be sponsoring programs which will not be in direct conflict with any of our local churches; or the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We do have some long-range plans that will benefit the Fellowship, such as hopefully, sponsoring a national radio program for our Fellowship.

The first fund-raiser that we have worked out for the Foundation, is a trip to the HOLY LAND this year. Plans have been made by the Troy D. Perry Foundation, to provide members of our Fellowship Congregations, and our friends, an opportunity to travel as a group into the Bible Lands and the Mediterranean countries of Greece and Italy.

We will be sending complete plans, brochures, and other important information within two weeks. But, I wanted each Pastor in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, to have first hand, advance information.

The initial enthusiasm in Los Angeles has been fantastic! And, it now appears that a very large contingent of excited people will be making this travel adventure together!

Art; first, the Troy D. Perry Foundation wants each Pastor in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches to have the opportunity to go on this trip of a lifetime! I know what kind of salaries most of you preachers make. Therefore, the TDP Foundation will provide a FREE trip for each Fellowship Pastor who will assist us in the following manner:

1. Secure five (5) members and/or friends from your area to accompany you on this trip; then your trip will be FREE!
2. Provide the Foundation with a mailing list so that we can furnish information to people in your area, and assist you in obtaining these passengers.

The following is general information regarding the tour, and more specific information will follow:

Departure Date: October 23, 1973

Price: \$950.00 from New York (JFK)
All inclusive

Itinerary: 15 Days in Israel, Jordan, Greece and Italy. Cities to be visited include Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Amman, Athens, Rome and many other Christian historical sites.

Group travel is planned from several U. S. Cities, and information will be provided as each group develops. You can help with this.....if you feel a group can be developed from your area.

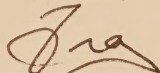
I know travel to Biblical and Spiritual places has changed many thousands of Christian lives. To this end, the Troy D. Perry Foundation is planning to make this a trip you will never forget! This is not to say...that we won't have a tremendous time of just plain fun! And, everybody will be pleasantly surprised by what is in store for them.

Please discuss this with your local members, and I think that you will be surprised at how many you will find that will want to go along with their Pastor. As I said earlier, it only takes five (5), and your trip is free.

There will be appearing in the April 24th issue of the Advocate, a full-page national advertisement for the tour. Be sure to tell your members to put your name at the bottom of the coupon if they respond directly to us, so that their reservation will be credited to your name for your free trip.

Also, please let us know of your interest, by clipping off the bottom portion of this sheet and completing the form and return it to the office of the Foundation.

In Christ,



Troy D. Perry

TDP/be

.....
Troy, I am interested in going on the HOLY LAND Tour. Make a reservation for me. And, I will attempt to qualify for my free trip and will provide the necessary information and assistance.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

.....
Mail to: Troy D. Perry Foundation P. O. Box 74604 Los Angeles,
California 90004



photo by Anthony Enton Friedkin

Forgive me for not smiling, but as you can see, at this moment, I don't have a lot to smile about.

Last Saturday, in the early morning hours, our church building burned down. And with the building our furnishings. It is a complete loss. Even while the fire burned the word spread throughout Los Angeles and members and friends of Metropolitan Community Church rushed to the scene. Seventeen units of the Los Angeles Fire Department responded to the call; but it was too late.

People wept openly. So much love had been put into that old building at 22nd and Union. And so much love had gone out from it to our community. You see, all we ever wanted to do—was to help people.

It was a beautiful old church building, just like hundreds of others, and yet it was different. Our Brothers and Sisters made it different! Our church building was used for more than Sunday Services—it was used seven days a week—24 hours a day to reach the total community.

Housed in the building were the Headquarters offices of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. The Samaritan Bible Seminary; a school for training men and women for the ministry to serve our community throughout the world. It was used by the Metropolitan Community Temple; a Jewish congregation with an outreach into the gay community on Friday evenings, and their Torah was damaged in the fire.

Our Crisis Intervention Center provided immed-

iate telephone counseling, anytime, day or night when emergencies arose concerning legal aid, health, psychological and employment problems. We were there—if a person just wanted to rap. Our Center also supplied the services of professional counselors (psychiatrists, psychologists, etc.), on a face-to-face basis for people with deep-rooted problems.

Our Deacons closet (the only closet in MCC), gave away free food to over one thousand persons in the last twelve months, and collected and distributed over four and one-half tons of clothing to people in need.

We have worked to ease human suffering; as we preached and believed that "God cares." We have watched Gay Brothers and Sisters shake loose from bonds of despair and degradation, and with determination, stand up and be counted—telling the world... "WE ARE NOT AFRAID ANYMORE!"

Well, we dream our dreams and we believe we CAN change the world! We will NOT be stopped! To those people who would rejoice because of our loss: WE SERVE YOU NOTICE—that we, in the Gay Community, will never permit the hands of the clock to be turned back on us—ever again! We WILL rebuild and go forward!

We need the help of every concerned person. We MUST start rebuilding immediately! We solicit your contributions. Anything you send will help. It's all up to us... "WITHOUT A VISION... THE PEOPLE PERISH." FROM THE FLAMES... WE RISE TO BUILD AGAIN!

Yes, Rev. Perry, I want to join with other concerned individuals in the rebuilding of the Mother Church, the headquarters of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, and Samaritan Bible Seminary. Enclosed is my contribution.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

Make check or money order payable to MCC Building Fund (tax deductible) P.O. Box 77201 Los Angeles, California 90007 (213) 462-0916.



photo by Anthony Enton Friedkin

Forgive me for not smiling, but as you can see, at this moment, I don't have a lot to smile about.

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NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

Make check or money order payable to MCC Building Fund (tax deductible) P.O. Box 77201 Los Angeles, California 90007 (213) 462-0916.

4/21/73

Metropolitan Community Church
Of Philadelphia
P.O. Box 8174,
Phila. Pa. 19101

Metropolitan Community Church
of Hawaii,
P.O. Box 15825,
Honolulu, Hawaii
96815

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

It pains me to write this letter, for we all try to reach out and help those in need, and so often our good deeds have been blessed. It is doubly painful to have tried to help, and learn that your efforts have been abused.

I must alert you to the fact that a young man named Chuck (Charles) Dickason, age 20, dark brown hair, about 5'10", 150 lbs., is on his way to Hawaii, and I am sure will be in touch with the church. Chuck is not dangerous, or violent, but very disturbed, extremely confused, and he has a history of using people he meets through the M.C.C.

Chuck came to us just before Christmas last year. He told us that he had just been discharged from the Marines and that he was touring the country and had been staying with people connected with the M.C.C. He was friendly, engaging, attractive. He gave us no cause for concern. Shortly after his arrival, however, he confided in me that he was AWOL from the Marines. That he had told them he was Gay and that when they did nothing he just took off. I later learned it was his second attempt, he had been apprehended the first time. We immediately put Chuck in touch with the ACLU, he was advised of his rights, etc., we contacted his parents, who were very concerned about him, but appreciative that he was with people that cared. We prepared an atmosphere to convince him his best move was to return to Los Angeles (his home) and surrender to the Marines and get the whole thing over with. We were successful in this. However, in a conversation I had with Pastor Greh of Salt Lake, I learned that Chuck had manipulated a substantial sum of money from a member of his congregation. I felt it was in Chuck's best interest to get him back to the coast, and there was little to be gained in trying to talk him into returning to Salt Lake, or for that matter, turning him over to the FBI ~~xxx~~ here in Philadelphia.

He did return to the Coast, surrendered to the Marines, and was discharged. During his months on the Coast he was writing to a member of our congregation. And, much to my surprise, Chuck returned here last week. He told the young man, who was putting him up in his home, that he had a debt to his mother, and wanted to return to the Coast, get his clothes and belongings, pay his mother back and return to his new found "lover". The young man loaned Chuck nearly \$600.00. When there was no word from Chuck, a call to his mother revealed he not only wasn't returning to Philadelphia, or paid his mother, but was on his way to Hawaii.

My own personal evaluation of Chuck, is that basically he is not bad. I have talked with him, and both his mother and father. They are a good family, they adopted Chuck when he was quite young, and he was raised with their own children. I don't believe that his intentions are to hurt or offend. But, he has done these things, and we feel that everyone should be alerted. In fact, he is a good young man, intelligent and cooperative, and he should have a bright and happy future. But, he has a problem. And that problem is deeper than anyone has so far been aware. He needs to return to his family, as I know they reach out to give him the help and love he needs. For us to give him any further supportive aid, is only band-aid help.

Chuck is very likeable, and any of us can easily be led to be less than objective in your dealings with him. I liked Chuck very much, and these developments hurt. Not that I could not have helped more, but that I failed to see the extent of his problem, and out there somewhere is someone that is in need. It hurts that a young man in our congregation (he is only 23) took out a loan of \$600.00, because he loved and wanted to help. And, yet, that young man says to me, "I don't care about the money..I want Chuck to get help." Amen!

Your prayers for this disturbed young person may be the only answer.

I wish I had happier news, but I extend the warmest love and affection from the brothers and sisters of the rapidly growing Philadelphia Church.

Yours, In Christ

Jay Neely, Deacon
Worship Coordinator

CC Bob Ennis - Los Angeles
For distribution to all
Missions and Churches.

Los Angeles Times

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE WEST, 1,026,499 DAILY, 1,210,556 SUNDAY

Growing Homosexual Churches Aid Many

Some Acceptance by Society, Including Politicians' Acknowledgements, Claimed

BY JOHN DART
Times Religion Writer

A growing denomination of homosexual churches is providing some acceptance for homosexuals by society, including acknowledgments by politicians.

In four years, the Los Angeles-born Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches has established congregations in 40 U.S. cities with 15,000 members.

And a 60-member synagogue for homosexual men and women has been forming here since last summer with the aid of the church and local Reform Judaism officials.

The Metropolitan Community Church has had its setbacks, too.

A \$160,000 fire of "suspicious origin" burned out the Los Angeles "mother church" a few weeks ago and the church has been barred by California prison officials from counseling inmates. The church was expected to file suit against the state today on the prison matter.

Official Concern

On the other hand, the church and temple congregations, forced out of their building at 22nd St. and Union Ave. by the Jan. 27 fire, have received expressions of concern from Paul Lampert of the mayor's office and from City Councilmen Gilbert Lindsey, Arthur Snyder and Robert Stevenson.

The Rev. Troy Perry, the pastor-founder who is homosexual himself, has had increasing contacts in recent weeks with elected officials, including interviews with Mayor Sam Yorty and Dist. Atty. Joseph Busch.

Mr. Perry, a onetime Church of God minister, delivered the invocation Sunday night at a testimonial dinner for Assemblyman Walter Karabian.

"Most politicians are beginning to realize that gay people are a political reality, that homosexuals vote, too," he said.

"Homosexuals want to see laws equally enforced," he said.

General Approach

Regarding refusals from state prison officials to admit MCC clergymen, Mr. Perry said that some authorities have objected to the special ministry to homosexual inmates rather than a general approach to counseling. Mr. Perry said, however, that Black Muslim ministers have been admitted to counsel Muslim inmates.

Of all the recent developments, one most likely to stir controversy in coming months may be the assistance given to the new Jewish homosexual congregation by the Pacific Southwest office of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Rabbi Erwin Herman, director of the UAHC (Reform Judaism) district of 50 congregations, said in an interview he helped the congregation with its worship services, obtaining speakers, acquiring a Torah and developing an adult education program.

"One of the major tasks of the UAHC is to assist in the creation of synagogues," said Rabbi Herman, "and we respond to requests that come from any Jews seeking to create synagogues."

Guests of Temple

Since the fire, the congregation has been conducting its Friday night services at Leo Baeck Temple in West Los Angeles, at that temple's invitation.

Rabbi Herman said neither the UAHC's constitution nor the liberal tradition of Reform Judaism prohibits the assistance given to the new congregation. Nor would they bar its affiliation with the union, he said.

The UAHC director, whose office is in the San Fernando Valley, admitted that if the homosexual congregation applied — once it establishes itself as a chartered non-profit organization — that resistance is likely at four local and national levels where

approval must be obtained.

The Bible admonition against homosexuality in Leviticus is ignored by Rabbi Herman and the synagogue leaders in the same way a number of other scripture laws are ignored by liberal Jews today.

"There is also a Biblical law which says that when a father and mother have a 'rebellious' son they should take him to the gates of the city and to the elders and have him stoned," Rabbi Herman said.

Refuses Judgment

Saying that medical and psychological opinion is divided on the nature of homosexuality, Rabbi Herman added he would "not pass a medical judgment on homosexuality."

If the congregation affirms its attachment to Judaism and its liberal interpretation, he said, "I believe it is incumbent on our liberal movement to admit this congregation at the time it seeks to apply."

Rabbi Herman praised the work of Rev. Perry, who had referred those interested in starting a homosexual temple to the UAHC office.

"Perry has the ability to take an entire community of dispossessed people who have been leading lives of lies and give them the opportunity to lead lives of truth—at least when they are in the confines of the church," Rabbi Herman said.

"He has enabled them to move beyond the closed doors of the gay bar to the open area of worship," the rabbi said.

Rabbi Herman predicted that the synagogue will not succeed fully "until we find a gay rabbi willing to 'come out' and give leadership."

Jerry Small, a 40-year-old salesman, said the temple—now called alternately Beth Chayim Chadashim (House of New Life) and Metropolitan Community Temple—began when he and only three other homosexuals showed up for a Wednesday night discussion meeting last April and; coincidentally all were Jewish.

With the assistance of Mr. Perry and Rabbi Herman, first services were held in June. By the High Holy Days last fall, attendance hit a high of 175 persons.

As is the case with the homosexual churches, attendance is typically high-



DAMAGED CHURCH—The Rev. Troy Perry and Jerry Small outside the burned out Metropolitan Community Church. Fire was of "suspicious origin."

Times photo

er than membership because of many homosexuals' fears of identification by outsiders.

Though there may be that tension underlying some church or temple meetings, "you can see people who are very introverted come out of their shells somewhat and find identification in society," said the 35-year-old temple president who, nevertheless, was interviewed only on the basis that he would not be identified.

Small, who now serves as the temple's vice president, said, "Judaism is family oriented, and we've created our own family."

Of the 60 members, about 25 are women, Small said. "They are very active, leading in prayers and participating in sermons and other temple work," he said.

Most members had dropped out of Jewish synagogue life because of their sexual orientation, Small said.

The 725-member congregation pastored by Mr. Perry, whose average Sunday attendance is 900 men and women, has been holding services since the fire at the Aquarius Theater in Hollywood for a token rent of \$25 a week.

While insurance will cover part of the damage and costs incurred, the congregation will have to rebuild or buy property at another location because of a lack of parking at the downtown Los Angeles

site, Mr. Perry said. The church functions much like a Protestant congregation with social action activities. The church's 24-hour Crisis Intervention Center averages 1,900 telephone calls a month, the minister said.

Aided by Club

The Caltech Glee Club and the late Clara Ward and her gospel singers have sung at Sunday services and the state of California issued a resolution congratulating the church on its fourth anniversary last October.

Next year, the National Council of Churches may face the kind of question Reform Judaism may have to contend with.

The homosexual church fellowship asked the council in 1970 about affiliation, but the Protestant-Orthodox body responded that a denomination must have 50 congregations and a constituency of 20,000 members in order to qualify as an applicant for membership.

The fellowship's general conference has directed its officers to apply once those figures are reached, which Mr. Perry says may be in 1974.

Resolution

By the Honorable Walter Karabian
San Gabriel Valley

*RELATIVE TO COMMENDING
THE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES*

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles is celebrating its fourth anniversary on Sunday, October 8, 1972; and

WHEREAS, From a modest beginning of 12 adherents in 1968 the church, under the denominational banner of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, has grown to a nationwide congregation of 15,000 persons; and

WHEREAS, The church teaches and practices the Christian doctrine; and

WHEREAS, The Los Angeles Metropolitan Community Church proudly provides a spiritual and social ministry to the Los Angeles area, and is ranked number three in attendance of all Protestant churches in Los Angeles, with an average Sunday morning worship attendance in excess of 800 persons; and

WHEREAS, The Los Angeles church wants to bring forth brotherhood and understanding among all peoples; and

WHEREAS, A 24-hour telephone counseling service manned by trained persons to speak to callers and to direct them to those agencies, people and places that will furnish services to meet their needs, and a full service placement agency dedicated to placing the unemployed is maintained by the Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, Sunday, October 8, 1972, will be a day of spiritual rededication of all the church's aims and purposes; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by Assemblyman Walter Karabian, That the Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles be congratulated on its fourth anniversary, and be commended for the important and outstanding community services it provides; and be it further

Resolved, That a suitably prepared copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles.

Members Resolution No. 582

Dated: October 3, 1972

Signed

Walter Karabian

Honorable Walter Karabian
45th Assembly District





Metropolitan Community Church

373 North Western Avenue Suite 211 Los Angeles California 90004 213 462-0916

June 11, 1973

Dear Members & Friends:

The oppressor is still at work. We have been asked to move again; and starting this Sunday, June 17, 1973, we will be worshipping at the ENCORE THEATRE, corner of Melrose Avenue and Van Ness in Hollywood.

Services will begin promptly at 10:45AM. Bring your friends and neighbors and let's worship together.

As you know, summer is upon us, and this is the time when we traditionally go on vacation. Sometimes we forget that the Church budget doesn't. Let's all remember, if we are going to be out of town, to send our tithes to the church treasurer to help in our ever-expanding work here in the Mother Church.

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouses, that there may be meat in my house and prove me now, herewith, said the Lord of Hosts; if I will not open up the windows of Heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it."
Malachi 3:10

Let's all do our part!

I am happy to announce that our own Reverend Ken Jones will be ordained to the full ministry of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, in our morning worship service on Sunday, June 24, 1973. I will be bringing the Ordination Message. And, I hope to see you in Church this week.

In Christ,

Rev. Troy D. Perry

Reverend Troy D. Perry
Pastor

TDP/be

TROY D. PERRY FOUNDATION

presents

1973

Holy Land Tour

including

ATHENS & ROME

15 DAYS

Departing: October 23, 1973

ALL INCLUSIVE COST FROM NEW YORK

\$950.00

EASY PAYMENT PLAN AVAILABLE





I wish to invite you to participate in our first International Pilgrimage to the Middle East. Never before has the Gay Community had the opportunity to travel as a unit to explore the opportunities afforded by exploration of the land written about in the Scriptures. Not only will we be seeing first-hand the historic Land of Israel; where Jesus Christ lived and walked; but also walking in the very places that Moses, Abraham and the Prophets spent their entire lives leading that small minority of people to the Land promised by God.

The significance of the Holy Land—in understanding the Bible—will be a real education for each of us. Nowhere in the entire world is there so much history and beauty.

Our travel will take us through much of the Middle East, and we have included both Rome and Athens, so we can include our European friends in our social times; as well as seeing the lands of the Apostle Paul's missionary journeys.

Send in the Reservation Form and deposit immediately so space can be reserved for you and your friends.

Space Is Limited.



Travel with Troy Perry, Founder and Pastor of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, as he guides you through a NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN tour of the Holy Land . . . Sunday Worship Services will be held on historic sites in Jerusalem and Rome.

The itinerary will include a full week of sightseeing and travel in Israel and its environs. Included will be Jericho, Qumran Caves, Bethlehem, Tiberias, Sea of Galilee, Dead Sea and, of course, the ancient City of Jerusalem. Also included will be the New Israel currently celebrating its 25th Year Anniversary; Tel Aviv, Haifa and other important sites showing the marvelous restoration of the ancient nation.

While in Athens we will include sights surrounding the life of Paul the Apostle, including Corinth and the Temple of Apollo. Extensive sightseeing in Modern Athens is planned with visits to the House of Parliament, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and many other historical sites. Exciting free time activities are planned for the evenings with local gay organizations.

Rome will be our last stop and certainly a graphic description of Rome can only be made by those who have been there. Words cannot express the grandeur of the Colosseum, St. Peter's Cathedral, The Forum; seeing ancient and modern Rome is a memory never to be forgotten.

ROME--ATHENS--MIDDLE EAST

THIS IS A TRIP OF A LIFETIME — YOU CAN GO!! THE TROY D. PERRY FOUNDATION HAS ARRANGED FOR A LOW COST, 24 MONTH, EASY PAYMENT PLAN FOR YOU! JUST CHECK BOX ON COUPON AND MAIL NOW.



ALL INCLUSIVE RATES PROVIDE:

- ★ Air Transportation via modern jet.
- ★ Accommodations are First Class in Twin Bedded Rooms. Single rooms at a supplement cost of \$46.00.
- ★ Meals consist of three meals a day—Continental breakfast—Table d'hote lunch—Gourmet dinners. Two meals per day in Athens and Rome to allow individual selection at the famous restaurants of Europe.
- ★ Sightseeing by modern private motorcoach.

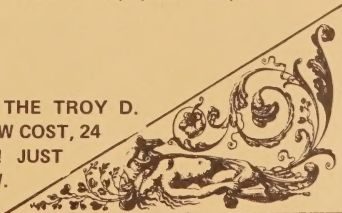
NOT INCLUDED:

- ★ Personal items, such as laundry, valet service and excess baggage. Also not included are passenger fee or airport taxes. Transportation from hometown to departure point of New York. Group transportation is being arranged from several U.S. cities. Information will be sent on request.

- ★ A valid passport is required as well as a certificate of vaccination not older than 3 years for smallpox.

DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT:

- ★ A \$50.00 deposit is required to secure reservation.
- ★ A \$100.00 down payment is required for Airline Pay Later Plan.
- ★ Full price—\$950.00 due 30 days prior to departure.



ENCLOSE IN ENVELOPE AND RETURN TO:

TROY D. PERRY FOUNDATION
POST OFFICE BOX 74604
LOS ANGELES, CA 90004

I am interested in going on the 1973 Foundation Tour to the **HOLY LAND**, including **ATHENS** and **ROME**.

DEPARTING: OCTOBER 22, 1973

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

AREA CODE _____ PHONE _____

- ☐ I have included \$50.00 deposit to make reservation. Please send confirmation and additional information.
☐ Send easy payment information.

(CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX)

EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT
TROY D. PERRY FOUNDATION
1973
HOLY LAND TOUR

TROY PERRY FOUNDATION

1973 Holy Land Tour

15 Days—\$950.00

Departing: October 23rd — New York (JFK Airport)

ENROLLMENT & RESERVATION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

AREA CODE: _____ PHONE: _____

My check is enclosed for:

Make check payable to:

TROY PERRY FOUNDATION

☐ \$50.00 Deposit

☐ \$95.00 Down Payment

☐ \$950.00 Full Payment

With \$50.00 deposit full payment is required 30 days prior to departure.

With \$95.00 down payment an easy payment plan is available with 6% add-on interest for up to 24 months if this plan is selected.

If you wish to be included in planned groups traveling together from various cities in the U.S., please indicate that city best suited to your hometown.

Los Angeles _____

San Francisco _____

Seattle _____

Denver _____

Dallas _____

Chicago _____

Atlanta _____

Other _____

Costs will be provided for city checked. These groups will travel together to join with each other in New York. A tour of the city of New York is planned in conjunction with these groups.

If you wish to share your room with another person please indicate that person's name and address:

Limited single rooms are available at a supplement of \$46.00. Include this amount in your check at this time if you wish a single room, otherwise the rooming list will be developed by the tour director and no changes will be possible.

See "Tour Conditions" in brochure for additional necessary information.

SEND THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK TO:

Troy Perry Foundation
Post Office Box 74604
Los Angeles 90004
(213) 462-3774



Board of Evangelism and World Missions

373 North Western Avenue Suite 211 Los Angeles California 90004 213 462-0916

July 18, 1973

Executive Secretary

TO ALL CHURCHES & MISSIONS UFMCC

Dear Pastors, Church Treasurers & Church Clerks:

General Conference is just around the corner, and we will be closing our books for the Board of Evangelism & World Missions, as of August 15, 1973. So that we may make our awards and presentations to the three (3) Churches or Missions with the highest per capita giving to the concerns of Evangelism and Church Extension; please compile a figure which represents all contributions made through your membership and congregation to these concerns.

This includes any offerings to the National Prison Ministry, Ministry to the Blind & Handicapped*, or directly made to the Board of Evangelism & World Missions.

According to our figures your church has been credited in the following amount of — 0 — to date towards these concerns.

It is important that this information reaches us by August 10th. Please return the form at the bottom of this letter.

Thanking you for your generosity and contributions to this great undertaking and work of love.

Sincerely,

Reverend Lee J. Carlton
Executive Secretary

* Northeast District Conference: please don't include contributions made to Mr. Michael Nordstrom for district work or through your District Board of Home Missions while Mr. Nordstrom was in your employ. Include only those contributions made to Mr. Nordstrom for the UFMCC, or directly to the Board of Evangelism for Handicapped ministry.

.....
Dear Reverend Carlton:

Our actual Membership is _____, and our total given to Evangelism and Church extension is \$ _____.

MCC of _____

Signed _____



Metropolitan Community Church

Rev. David Carden
Pastor

(904) 354-1318

Post Office Box 291
Jacksonville, Fla. 32201
at Union & Laura Sts.

See Dennis

December 9, 1976

Mr. Dennis Sousa, Clerk
Metropolitan Community Church of Providence
Post Office Box 1462
Providence, Rhode Island 02901

Dennis, greetings in the Liberating Love of our Living Lord!

In following up on our correspondence I noticed as of the above date this church has not received our order of crosses from you.

According to my records a letter was sent to you dated September 23rd requesting two dozen crosses and enclosed was a check in the amount of \$ 36.00. The check was dated September 26, 1976, payable to MCC-Providence, check number 691. The check in question has cleared our bank account and was indorsed in writing as "MCC Deposit only 0050-992" and was deposited at First Bank and Trust Co., Providence, RI.

Please check your records to see if the order has been placed, received, and mailed to you or this church. If it has please have the company place a tracer on it so that we may have the crosses as soon as possible.

Thank you for your assistance and looking into this matter at your earliest convenience.

In Christian Love and Human Dignity I sincerely remain,

David
Rev. David Carden

DC/dc

yes! Sent!

THE ADVOCATE

One Peninsula Place, Bldg. 1730, Suite 225, San Mateo, CA 94402/ Tel. (415) 573 7100

November 30, 1976

Dear Advertiser:

The ADVOCATE is pleased to offer you a way to make 250,000 gay readers aware of your services. We are starting a "living" directory in the pages of The ADVOCATE. By "living", we mean that it is always current and our readers know it is the most accurate listing of its' kind in print. We would like to see your business listed.

We shall provide the State, City and classification headings (see attached mock-ups). You tell us under which of the several headings you would like to appear and, for \$5 per line, there you shall be for all of the 250,000 traveling, vacationing gay people to see.

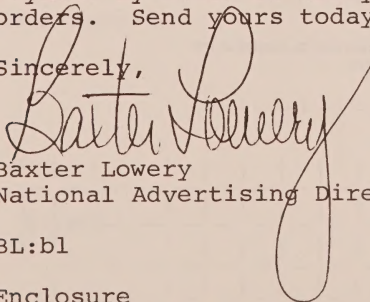
We will automatically put your business name in bold type. If you wish, you may indicate an entire line to be in bold-face, otherwise, just fill in the convenient coupon attached and away we go towards listing your business where the people you want to see it will be looking.

We are accepting listings on a six (6) issue basis. If your listing is two lines (for example) the cost would be 2x\$5.00 times 6 issues equals \$60.00. Go ahead, add a little extra and tell us about your business, do you offer Disco, do you serve food, are you an F.T.D. Florist, do you take reservations by phone? Accept charge cards?

Our readers want to know about you. Now you can tell them.

Payment by check or money order must accompany all Directory orders. Send yours today.

Sincerely,


Baxter Lowery
National Advertising Director

BL:bl

Enclosure

THE ADI

Directory

ALABAMA

AUBURN
BARS (Mixed Gay)
Pete's, 816 Opelika Avenue

RESTAURANTS (Mixed Gay)
Pasquale's, 174 East Magnolia

BIRMINGHAM
BARS (Mixed Gay)
Chances R. Lounge, 208 N. 23rd
Gizmo's, 909 South 22nd Street

BARS (Men)
Matador, 208 North 22nd Street
Tito's, 1310 North 1st Street
Tango Palace, 117 21st St

AUBURN
BARS (Mixed Gay)
Pete's, 816 Opelika Avenue

RESTAURANTS (Mixed Gay)
174 East Magnolia

The ADVOCATE reserves the right to edit, rewrite or reject ads which we feel are in poor taste or might result in legal action. This publication is the final judge of the best classification for each ad.



Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

January 12, 1977

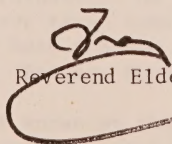
Dear Sisters & Brothers:

Enclosed in this envelope you will find several documents of importance to you:

1. A letter from the Fellowship Treasurer, Rev. Elder James Sandmire, with the revised Balance Sheet for the 7th Annual General Conference. The Balance Sheet should be shared with the voting lay Delegates. I am asking you to xerox this report for them to help the Fellowship office with this expense. Explain to each delegate that this report replaces page 22 of the Financial Report carried in the "Reports and Directives of the Seventh Annual General Conference" book.
2. A letter from Rev. Sandmire concerning the present financial position of the Fellowship. I hope you will share this report with your people who have questions concerning the Fellowship indebtedness. Also, in reading the last paragraph of page 2, please again, refer back to my letter dated November 11, 1976.
3. The next letter in this packet from Rev. Sandmire concerns the Administrative organization at Fellowship Headquarters. It is written purely as information to you.
4. A letter from Rev. Elder Freda Smith which is self-explanatory.

I hope all of you have received the Board of Elders' new Newsletter, "Keeping In Touch." Since sending the Newsletter out January 1st, we have received an additional \$1,922.01 in love offerings. Eighteen more of our congregations have responded, bringing the total to 29% of the Fellowship Churches who have sent gifts. If your Church hasn't received an offering as yet, I hope you will share the Fellowship needs with our people and plan to this week. Together I know we will make it and God will bless you all real, real good.

In Christ,



Reverend Elder Troy D. Perry

TDP/fkz

January 7, 1977

TO: ALL MINISTERS AND CONGREGATIONS

FROM: Rev. Elder James E. Sandmire, TREASURER

RE: REVISED BALANCE SHEET FOR PERIOD ENDING 6/30/76

Dear Friends:

Please find enclosed a revised balance sheet for the period ending 6/30/76. This corrects and replaces page 22 of the Financial Report distributed at General Conference. This letter comments on the revised Balance Sheet and answers questions which have arisen about our financial condition.

1. There has been a misunderstanding by some that the financial report presented to Conference was substantially incorrect. This is not true. The only correction was on the attached one page in the Accounts Receivable and Payable and in the subsequent total for Exhibit B. The rest of the report of 45 pages was correct.

In the past a Balance Sheet had never been presented. All our previous reports were primarily income and expense statements reflecting a cash basis only (that is, money actually received and spent). In each case, including this year's report, these cash statements were the basis for analysis and for budget forecasting. In every year, including this year's report, they have been correct.

Those of you who have attended each Conference will recall that I have moved each year toward a more complete reporting system. This past year we were finally able to afford a professional accountant, Mr. Melvin Crosby, to set up our bookkeeping system and prepare part of our reports. Since Mr. Crosby began his work late in the year he prepared an unaudited report on the basis of material he had at that time. His balance sheet reflected incorrect accounts receivable and payable. We noted at General Conference that this page seemed incorrect and confirmed this at a subsequent meeting of District Coordinators. We then indicated we would issue a corrected Balance Sheet. We have taken some time to do this as we wanted to review all the files after Herb Shannon and I moved into the Fellowship offices to ensure the revised Balance Sheet would be accurate.

2. The corrected Balance Sheet if known at the time of General Conference would not have changed substantially our analysis. Nor would it have changed our budget projections. In fact, the enclosed revised Balance Sheet is a more favorable Balance Sheet than the one included in the General Conference Report. Our cash-flow problems since General Conference result from circumstances after the end of the last fiscal year and in no way reflect upon the integrity of the General Conference Report.

3. The Revised Balance Sheet shows the following items under assets:

- (a) Cash in banks.
- (b) Deposit in transit (Tithes due in June as part of the fiscal year but actually received during the first few days of July.)
- (c) Loans/Receivable (loans to some ministers whose churches were unable to pay them for a while or who had some major financial need. Approved by the Board of Elders Executive Committee of that year.)
- (d) Accounts Receivable (This is a corrected item. It includes money owed the Fellowship from churches and individuals for books, certificates and In Unity. It also includes health and life insurance premiums owed by churches for their ministers' health insurance. I commented on this arrearage at General Conference. It should be noted that great efforts have been expended since we came to the Fellowship office to collect these delinquencies.)
- (e) Prepaid expenses (Includes money spent for General Conference before July 1 and the investment in the Thrift Shop which we hope will eventually return a profit.)

The Liabilities include:

- (a) Loans Payable (all now repaid).
- (b) Accounts Payable. This is a corrected item. Money owed to trade accounts which includes a leftover bill from General Conference 1974 that we had overlooked. This amount also includes a travel bill for Elders travel owed to Art Ramirez at Banktravel and money owed to Rev. Richard Vincent for materials he purchased in his work as an Elder.

Under the Balancing Account, in addition to the beginning balance, the total for Exhibit B was changed to include the Receivables and Payables. These items were properly spread over various accounts and are available for inquiry in the office.

4. We are now preparing a first six months statement and analysis which will be distributed soon. Since we are now on double entry bookkeeping and on an accrual basis and since our next report will be our first audited one we should have no further inaccuracies. We trust this report answers any questions you may have. We urge that this report, the enclosed revised Balance Sheet and the enclosed letters on our current financial position and on our administrative organization be shared with your Board of Directors and that you make copies for your delegates. We also urge Pastors to post a copy for the congregation to examine.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev Elder James E. Sandmire
REV. ELDER JAMES E. SANDMIRE
TREASURER

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

P.O. Box 5570
Los Angeles, CA 90055

Revised Balance Sheet Period Ending 6/30/76

Assets:

Cash in Banks	\$2,863	
Deposits in Transit	4,852	
Loans/Receivable (ministers)	1,118	
* <u>Accounts/Receivable:</u>		
Churches & Individual Invoices	1,223	
Health & Life Ins. Premiums	1,570	
Prepaid Exp. — Gen'l. Conf.	2,090	
Prepaid Exp. — Thrift Shop	<u>2,458</u>	<u>\$16,174</u>

Liabilities:

Loans/Payable	\$ 578	
* <u>Accounts/Payable:</u>		
<u>Trade Accounts & Churches</u>		
1974	149	
1975	201	
to 6/30/76	307	
Bank Travel Corp.	1,749	
Rev. R. Vincent	<u>1,003</u>	<u>\$ 3,409</u>

Balancing Account:

Beginning Balance	\$1,695	
* Exhibit "B" 6/30/76	<u>11,070</u>	<u>\$12,765</u>
		<u>\$16,174</u>

* see accounting notes attached

Accountant's Notes

- * 1) Items marked thus are the only changes in the General Conference '76 report.
- 2) Supporting schedules disclosing additional expenses to various areas as well as additional Income in various areas (designated as Exhibit "B") are prepared and in the Treasurer's office. Though we have not submitted it herewith for economy purposes for its reproduction — it is available for inspection and/or inquiry.

For the year ended
December 31, 1967

Assets		Liabilities	
Cash	1,000	Accounts payable	2,000
Accounts receivable	1,000	Notes payable	1,000
Inventory	1,000	Long-term debt	1,000
Fixed assets	1,000	Other liabilities	1,000
Total Assets	4,000	Total Liabilities	5,000
Equity		Total	
Capital	3,000	Assets	4,000
Retained earnings	1,000	Liabilities	5,000
Total Equity	4,000	Total	9,000

The following table shows the changes in the balance sheet for the year ended December 31, 1967. The changes are shown in thousands of dollars.

Assets: Cash (+1,000), Accounts receivable (+1,000), Inventory (+1,000), Fixed assets (+1,000). Total Assets (+4,000).

Liabilities: Accounts payable (+2,000), Notes payable (+1,000), Long-term debt (+1,000), Other liabilities (+1,000). Total Liabilities (+5,000).

Equity: Capital (+3,000), Retained earnings (+1,000). Total Equity (+4,000).

January 7, 1977

TO: ALL MINISTERS AND CONGREGATIONS

FM: Rev. Elder James E. Sandmire, TREASURER

RE: PRESENT FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE FELLOWSHIP

Dear Friends:

You have received the revised Balance Sheet to be added to the last General Conference report and you will soon receive a statement of our first six months operation. This letter comments on several aspects of our financial condition, to answer questions which have been asked in the last few weeks and to correct several misunderstandings that came to our attention.

1. During the last four (4) months, we have experienced a severe cash-flow crisis. A cash-flow crisis does not necessarily mean we are going broke. It may and does, in our case, mean that money due us is coming in late or not at all. This, in turn, affects our ability to pay our bills on time.

This cash-flow crisis happened after General Conference and in no way indicates the General Conference report was substantially incorrect or that the budget projections were incorrect. Actually they were remarkably accurate.

What has caused our cash-flow crisis? The reasons include:

- a. Our budget for General Conference in Washington, D. C. was too low. We based the budget on a reasonable increase over the previous General Conference budget. Because Washington, D. C. was extraordinarily expensive and because we tried to respond to previous Conference delegates' requests for conference reports, printing facilities, etc., the actual bills far exceeded our budget. To pay some of the most pressing bills we had to delay paying some of the "bookstore" bills. The major cost overruns were in printing. After all Conference bills were supposedly paid except travel (which we expected to be able to pay within a month and which amounted to an additional \$1500.00 or so) we discovered printing bills alone of (Thundergoat - \$2400.00, Data-Boy - \$1200.00, Prettyman - \$1300.00, Connie Vaughn - \$1000.00) = \$5900.00 of which only \$2400.00 was expected. Since printing bills affect our immediate credit, what should the Treasurer do? The Treasurer diverts funds to pay the most pressing bills and negotiates where the Treasurer can. How can such overruns happen? Through failure to place everything under the Treasurer's control so the Treasurer can budget with confidence. Unless this is done in the future, I cannot guarantee our financial stability.

- b. The second reason for our cash-flow crisis was warned against at General Conference. I indicated that if tithes from churches were late or withheld because of local church decisions, our increased budget would immediately face us with a financial problem. In fact, the receipts from tithing for the first month or two after Conference were substantially lower than expected. This was the result of late or withheld tithes for the most part. This fact coupled with the increased budget voted unanimously at General Conference only added to our cash-flow problem.

In summary, an unexpected increase in General Conference expenses, an increased budget voted at General Conference, and a late payment of church tithes and other invoiced items resulted in having less cash than budgeted to pay bills greater than expected during October, November, and December.

2. How did we meet the cash-flow crisis? We made hard decisions which were often unpopular decisions. First, we froze all publication expenses since those were among the highest overruns. This resulted in no report forms, no certificates, and (until we raised enough funds - which should be by next week) no In Unity. The Treasurer accepts responsibility for this and I hope you will blame me and not the Publications Department. Second, we buy nothing - including paper and pencils. As a result many of the staff have no desks and no equipment. They will have them later, but not now. Third, we negotiate overdue bills. Fourth, where necessary we divert funds to make sure the bills needed to operate (taxes, health insurance, rent, phones, salaries, equipment) are paid first. Again, please blame me - not the rest of the staff for such decisions. Fifth, we arranged with the bank to honor overdrafts. They have been helpful, but such requests cannot be honored indefinitely. We believe these measures have been successful since we have continued to operate and meet our most pressing obligations.
3. How have we generated income? First, after coming to the Fellowship Office, Herb Shannon and I determined the staff had been too small to follow up on all invoices due us. We then researched those invoices and rebilled those items for which we showed no payment. Some items had been paid, but recorded under other designations. However, many items did result in payment. Second, we emphasized the need for churches to pay tithes in full and before the 10th of the month. This has improved but is still far below what it ought to be. I would remind the churches that every church that pays its tithes first prospers. We call every church to pray for their responsibility in this regard. Third, through Rev. Perry we asked for a special Christmas offering for the Fellowship. Many churches responded and this has helped us considerably. Other churches asked questions which we hope we have answered and that, as a result, we may receive future offerings.
4. Are there additional questions or misunderstandings? We believe there are two.

First, Reverend Perry's letter was not read carefully by many of us and resulted in some misunderstanding. Rev. Perry fasted and prayed and asked

for a Christmas offering of \$15,000.00. This was interpreted to mean the Fellowship owed \$15,000.00. This is not true. A sum of \$15,000.00 would pay the bills listed above and would provide us with a cushion to tide us over the first part of each month before we receive the tithes from the churches. The \$15,000.00 was an amount calculated to give us a reserve against a future cash-flow crisis.

Second, other than the requirement to pay operating expenses, all money is expended in a way to assure each department receives the money budgeted by General Conference. By the time of next General Conference we are confident the budget will be substantially met.

5. Can we meet our monthly obligations if we can catch up the debts described above? The answer is yes. The budgeted monthly tithes are now being met and they meet the monthly expenditures. If we can catch up the money owed the Fellowship and pay the bills from Conference, we should end the fiscal year in a healthy financial condition.

Respectfully,

Rev James E. Sandmire

REV. ELDER JAMES E. SANDMIRE
TREASURER

cc: Routed

/jepb

January 7, 1977

TO: ALL MINISTERS AND CONGREGATIONS

FROM: Rev. James E. Sandmire, ADMINISTRATIVE ELDER

RE: ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

Dear Friends:

For your information the following administrative developments occurred since the current staff took office in October and November.

1. FACILITIES: Organization, refurbishment and painting of all offices to assure a respectable image to those who call upon us. The staff did most of the work. Facilities include the Lay Administrator and Lay Concerns office under Francis Joachim, reception and switchboard office under direction of Rev. Paul Breton, Secretarial Office under Frank Zerilli, Accounting Office under Herb Shannon, Samaritan Theological Institute (two classrooms, two offices and a library) under Karen Wheeler and Rev. Jeff Pulling, Publications Office under Rev. Richard Mickley, Church Services Office under Rev. Larry Bernier, Prison Ministry under Rev. Bob Arthur, Elders' and Treasurer's Offices under Rev. Troy Perry and Rev. Jim Sandmire, Washington, D. C. Office under Rev. Roy Birchard and Adam DeBaugh.
2. ACCOUNTING: With Herb Shannon and Rev. James Sandmire coming to the office the following has been accomplished:
 1. Complete researching of files for missing accounts Receivable and Payable, invoicing of all accounts Receivable, negotiation to pay old accounts Payable. Establishment of payment priorities.
 2. Completion of bookkeeping system in consultation with Auditor-Consultant. Transference to double entry accrual bookkeeping system. Daily posting of financial position.Preparation of quarterly financial reports.
Expansion of the Finance Committee.
3. ADMINISTRATION: With the help of the Lay Administrator, Francis Joachim, Rev. Perry and Rev. Sandmire have accomplished the following:
 - a. Development of Church Services Department to provide communications among churches and to communicate special programs.
 - b. Development of the Office of Lay Concerns.

- c. Refinement of job descriptions, development of procedures for administrative controls, development of weekly report forms for staff.
- d. Establishment of daily prayer meetings.

These and other developments will be reported on regularly to the churches in the future.

Respectfully,

Rev James E. Sandmire
REV. JAMES E. SANDMIRE
ADMINISTRATIVE ELDER

cc: Routed

/jepb

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

TO THE FACULTY OF THE DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

1900

1900



Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

January 6, 1977

To All U.F.M.C.C. Church Bodies

Dear Brothers & Sisters In Christ:

I am very happy to inform you that Reverend Lee J. Carlton will have an opportunity to visit with some of our Churches on the mainland U.S.A. during the interval between his leaving Australasia, where he has served as Coordinator of Church Extension for the past two years, and his assumption of duties as Coordinator of Church Extension for the United Kingdom.

Several of our Churches have expressed a desire to have this gifted, articulate, Spirit-filled Minister of God bring his message of a vision of a world won for Christ to ignite their congregations with enthusiasm for World Church Extension. February 13 is World Church Extension Sunday, and Reverend Carlton's mainland U.S.A. visit will be from the end of January until the second Sunday in March. His progress across the country will be from West to East, arriving in Los Angeles and leaving from Miami. He is anxious to visit as many Church Bodies as is possible. Needless to say, the more Churches who invite him to speak, the lower the plane fare individual Churches will have to share to bring him. I understand the only Church expense will be for the shared plane fare, although a special offering for the Fellowship World Church Extension budget will be taken from the Congregation. Experience has shown that members who are motivated by a vision of the Church Mission to give freely and abundantly, continue in free and abundant support of their local Church.

I know you will be blessed by this opportunity to receive Reverend Carlton. In order to schedule his visits, it is necessary that you communicate your desire to have him as quickly as possible. Please write to me at the Fellowship Offices, "Attention: World Church Extension."

ISAIAH 6:8

"Here Am I, Send Me."

Yours in Christ,

Reverend Elder Freda Smith
Secretary, World Church Extension

FS/fkz

HI!

Here, at last, is the procedure for amending and/or supplementing the counseling manual "Getting It Together." As we agreed in Washington, it is really important for each of us to complete these forms as quickly as possible so that all of our ideas may be included in the revised edition. I want to assure each of you that you will be given credit for the ideas that you share with me. Our names will all appear somewhere in the new issue.

In addition to completing this form, I also would like to encourage each of you to share with me the results of any experiences you may have had by now using the manual in your local congregations. How is it working? Are there any places that are unclear which I might be able to help explain?

I also am using this letter to serve as a reminder to those of you who took copies without paying for them that I do need to be reimbursed. I don't begin teaching again until October and the Fellowship has not yet sent me the check for sales at Conference. So I currently have no income, and I am relying heavily on each of you to enclose payment with the return of the evaluation forms. Please...

I am requesting that these forms be mailed to me no later than October 15, 1976. Hopefully, that will give time to assimilate a new manual, have it approved, and printed before General Conference VIII. We are totally dependent upon each of you for the success of this project. Please make some time within the next month for this vital need.

If I can be of help at any time, please feel free to contact me.

In Christ's Service,

Barb

Barb Culver

September 15, 1976

Joseph,
Hello! How was your vacation? Hope it was a well-deserved rest for you. When you return this form, I'd sure appreciate the \$21.00 I believe you still owe me (6 manuals at \$3.50 each.)

Thanks,
Barb



Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to the impending change in location of the International Offices of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the following information is provided to update all records.

MAILING ADDRESS:

All mail to the Fellowship which was formerly addressed to
POB 36277, Los Angeles, CA 90036 - or
1046 S. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90015
should be addressed to:

POB 5570
Los Angeles, CA 90055

Effective: Immediately
(POB 36277 expires 9/30/76)

TELEPHONE:

Effective September 1, 1976, the new telephone number will be:

Area Code 213 680-2111

All long distance calls should be paid by the caller. The general policy of the Fellowship is to accept NO collect calls.

LOCATION:

Effective September 1, 1976, the new location of the International Offices (including Institutional Ministry, Publications, etc) will be:

318 West 9th Street, Suite 623
Los Angeles, CA

→ NO MAIL should be sent to this address, since it could easily be lost in the lobby of the building. United Parcel should be sent to this address with SIGNATURE REQUIRED to assure delivery to the office rather than the lobby.

PLEASE CHANGE ALL YOUR RECORDS AND ADDRESS ALL FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS TO THE ABOVE INFORMATION.

Rev Richard C. Vincent

Rev. Elder Richard C. Vincent

July 19, 1976

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

1976	1977	Color/Alternate	Description
Jan 1	Jan 1	White	Circumcision of our Lord
4	2	White	Holy Name Sunday
6	6	White	Epiphany (Manifestation of Christ)
11	9	White	Holy Family Sunday
13	13	White	Baptism of Jesus (Commemorates Sacrament of Baptism)
18	16	Green	2nd Sunday after Epiphany
25	23	Green	3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Feb 1	30	Green	4th Sunday after Epiphany
8	--	Green	5th Sunday after Epiphany
--	Feb 6	Purple/Unbl Lin	Septuagesima Sunday
15	13	Green	Evangelism Sunday (Green for growth of the Word)
22	--	P/Unbleached Lin	Sexagesima Sunday
29	20	P/Unbl Linen	Quinquagesima Sunday
Mar 3	23	Purple/Unbl Lin	Ash Wednesday
7	27	Purple/Unbl Lin	1st Sunday of Lent
14	Mar 6	Purple/Unbl Lin	2nd Sunday of Lent
21	13	Purple/Unbl Lin	3rd Sunday of Lent
28	20	Purple/Unbl Lin	4th Sunday of Lent
Apr 4	27	Purple/Unbl Lin	Passion Sunday
11	Apr 3	Purple/Unbl Lin	Palm Sunday
15	7	White(*Purple)	Maundy Thursday (Feet Washing; Institution of the Sacrament of Communion - White; Change to Purple if and when altar is stripped)
16	8	Purple/Red/UL	Good Friday (Seven Last Words: Lu 23:34 - Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. Lu 23:43 - Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise. Jn 19:27 - Behold thy mother. Mt 27:46 - My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Jn 19:28 - I thirst. Jn 19:30 - It is finished. Lu 23:46 - Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.)
17	9	Purple(*White)	Holy Saturday (Blessing of First Fire; blessing of Paschal Candle - Purple; Change to White if service is conducted for renewal of baptismal vows.)
18	10	White	Easter Sunday (Resurrection of our Lord)
25	17	White	1st Sunday after Easter
May 2	24	White	2nd Sunday after Easter (1976 Samaritan Sunday)
9	May 1	White	3rd Sunday after Easter (1977 Samaritan Sunday 1976 Mothers Day)
16	8	White	4th Sunday after Easter (1977 Mothers Day)
23	15	White	5th Sunday after Easter
27	19	White	Ascension Day
30	22	White	Sunday after Ascension
--	29	Red	Pentecost Sunday (Red is used all Ember Week if mid-week services are held - Except Memorial Day)
31	31	White	Memorial Day
Jun 6	--	Red	Pentecost Sunday (see above May 29, 1977)
13	Jun 5	White	Trinity Sunday
17	9	White	Corpus Christi
20	12	Green	2nd Sunday after Pentecost (1976 Fathers Day)

<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>Color/Alternate</u>	<u>Description</u>
Jun 25	Jun 17	White	Sacred Heart of Jesus
27	19	Green	3rd Sunday after Pentecost (1977 Fathers Day)
Jul 4	--	White	Independence Day (4th Sunday after Pentecost)
--	26	Green	4th Sunday after Pentecost
11	Jul 3	Green	5th Sunday after Pentecost
18	10	Green	6th Sunday after Pentecost
25	17	Green	7th Sunday after Pentecost
Aug 1	24	Green	8th Sunday after Pentecost
8	31	Green	9th Sunday after Pentecost
15	Aug 7	Green	10th Sunday after Pentecost
22	14	Green	11th Sunday after Pentecost
29	21	Green	12th Sunday after Pentecost
Sep 5	28	Green	13th Sunday after Pentecost
12	Sep 4	Green	14th Sunday after Pentecost
19	11	Green	15th Sunday after Pentecost
26	18	Green	16th Sunday after Pentecost
Oct 3	25	Green	17th Sunday after Pentecost
--	Oct 2	Green	18th Sunday after Pentecost
6	6	White	Fellowship Day (may be moved to adjacent Sunday)
10	--	Green	18th Sunday after Pentecost
17	9	Green	19th Sunday after Pentecost
24	16	Green	20th Sunday after Pentecost
--	23	Green	21st Sunday after Pentecost
31	30	White	Christ The King
Nov 7	--	Green	22nd Sunday after Pentecost
14	Nov 6	Green	23rd Sunday after Pentecost
--	13	Green	24th Sunday after Pentecost
21	20	Green	Last Sunday after Pentecost
28	27	Purple/Blue	1st Sunday of Advent
Dec 5	Dec 4	Purple/Blue	2nd Sunday of Advent
12	11	Purple/Blue	3rd Sunday of Advent
19	18	Purple/Blue	4th Sunday of Advent
25	25	White	Nativity of our Lord (Christmas)
26	--	White	Sunday after Christmas

WHITE - The symbol of innocence, purity, triumph, joy. Used on festive occasions such as Christmas, Easter, Weddings, Baptism, etc. Has replaced the formerly traditional Black for Funerals and Memorials; new thinking is directed toward the spirit making a transition to a more joyous and pure state. May be augmented with gold trimming which symbolizes the glorious festival.

RED - Symbolizing the tongues of fire of the First Pentecost, this color is used on Pentecost and all of Ember Week (except for Memorial Day).

PURPLE - A symbol of penance and expiation, this color is traditionally used during the seasons of Lent and Advent. BLUE is an alternate color during Advent; representing Hope. UNBLEACHED LINEN is an alternate for Lent; representing austerity and giving attention to the purification, spiritual cleansing of the mind and heart...may be decorated with a trace of red and simple cross, or brown to blend with the natural color.

GREEN - Used on occasions when festive or penitential colors are not appropriate, namely Sundays after Epiphany and Pentecost. Represents living, growing plants...life...and is the symbol of spiritual growth and hope.



Post Office Box 5570 - Los Angeles, California 90055

Dear Minister,

I noticed on your last minister's report form received that it was mailed to POB 36277, the address indicated on the form itself. That address is incorrect and should be replaced by POB 5570, Los Angeles, California 90055.

We regret an inconvenience that this may cause you, but ask your patience as we try to serve you.

Sincerely,

Carol

(Rev.) Carol S. Cureton
for UFMCC Office Staff

CC/

June 27, 1978

Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Moderator
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches
P.O. Box 36277
Los Angeles, Calif. 90036

Dear Troy:

Enclosed with my ministers' report for June is this narrative report of what's been going on and some other data, etc. which may be of interest to the Fellowship. An M.C.C. ministry in a city like Providence does not pay off in cash, but may pay off in other ways which need to be noted -- both for M.C.C. and for the gay movement as a whole.

Enclosed is a note from Paul Gillespie to the pastors (carefully chosen) of the Rhode Island Council of Churches. On April 6th, John Gaffney of the Rhode Island Gay Political Caucus (and Director of Civil Rights for the Providence Human Rights Commission) and I met with the pastors group. Out of that came a promise to meet with the Police Department regarding their conduct of investigations concerning gays. Just recently, June 22nd, Chuck Noice of the R.I. affiliate of the National Gay Task Force and I met with the Police Superintendent while Paul Gillespie met with the Mayor. A shake-up within the Police supervisory echelons was the result, with the most homophobic police lieutenant being relieved of the full command of the police force and shifted to night supervisor. The Council had also planned to do a TV show on the theme of gays in the holocaust, but that has had to be postponed since John Gaffney is in critical condition in a local hospital due to an auto accident.

Second group of materials relates to the fast: First is a news article carried in the Providence Journal-Bulletin. With it is the "Messenger" of The Mathewson Street United Methodist Church, our host church with a note by their pastor about the fast. They were wonderfully supportive and came by Sunday after church tooting and waving. Most wonderful were little old ladies in print chiffon who came by in taxicabs on their way home and fell out the windows waving and had the drivers toot, etc. It was crazy and fun and unbelievable watching 60 Methodists in a caravan going by. Many stopped and talked, brought their children and parents over to meet us, etc. Also with that group of materials is a copy of "Highlights" the newsletter of the R.I. Council of Churches, with Paul Gillespie's notation about the fast. He is a real saint -- and it turns out was a member of the same First Baptist Church of New Orleans that I was, but we never met because by the time I got there he had gone away to seminary. I know his parents, however. So Paul and I are fairly close. He came ^{to see me} during the fast (as did Bill Zeigler, our host pastor) and Paul had good advice from Ghandi, whom he had written a paper about while in seminary. Good people and we have a good relationship going.

June 27, 1978

Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Moderator
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches
P.O. Box 36277
Los Angeles, Calif. 90036

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Second group of materials relates to the East. First is a news article carried in the Providence Journal-Bulletin. With it is the "Messenger" of The Matheson Street United Methodist Church, our host church with a note by their pastor about the East. They were wonderfully supportive and came by Sunday after church looking and waving. Most wonderful was little old ladies in print shirts who came by in taxis on their way home and fell out the windows waving and had the drivers stop, etc. It was crazy and fun and unbelievable watching 60 Methodists in a caravan going by. Many stopped and talked, brought their children and parents over to meet us, etc. Also with that group of materials is a copy of "Highlights" the newsletter of the R.I. Council of Churches, with Paul Gillespie's notation about the East. He is a real saint -- and it turns out was a member of the same First Baptist Church of New Orleans that I was, but never met because by the time I got there he had gone away to seminary. I know his parents, however. So Paul and I are fairly close. He came to the East (as did Bill Zeigler, our host pastor) and Paul had good advice from Gandhi, whom he had written a paper about while in seminary. Good people and we have a good relationship going.

The third article appended relates to Michael Nordstrom's ministry to the deaf at our church, and appeared in the R.I. Churchman, the newsletter of the Episcopal Diocese.

Sometimes small towns are exciting places to be. News is a commodity which has great value, and almost anything newsworthy is picked up. The Editor of the paper happens, just accidentally, to be a member of our host church! We get excellent publicity!

I am enclosing a duplicate of this letter and a photograph, which I would hope you would pass along to "In Unity" for their use.

The Lord has been blessing us with over a nd above tithes, which are keeping us alive this summer. We had 21 adults, 9 children in church Sunday, our offering was \$31.00 (I was away in N.Y. for Gay Pride Day), and Jean Gralley had done some extra work and made extra money. She tithed it and our intake for the week was \$78.00. Miracles continue to happen. We will survive and we will be stronger come fall.

I am going back to work in Boston for the summer -- they offered me my old job back and we will be okay. This is a poor town, but the few people associated with MCC want it here badly. The potential for reaching the rest of the gay people here is not good, however, and I wonder what it will take to get to them. I suspect only closing the bars would do it.

We are reaching still more gay mothers -- there must be hundreds out in those New England woods and little towns. The kids at the church are a great help when we counsel with gay mothers, they tell of their experiences and relate well with the other children. It helps. Our potluck usually has 6-8 gay mothers and their children at it.

We need a visit from someone in the Fellowship. Preferably a man. N.E. District now has more women ministers than men -- Dee Jackson, Shelley Hamilton, Karen Zeigler and myself/Gil Lincoln, Ed Hougen, Mike Nordstrom. We need a visitor with charisma, strong preaching style, and wit. Of course we can't afford HIM, but someone else could pass by and let us in on what's going on and let us feel like part of the family. I saw Frank Zerelli in N.Y. and told him that, too. Nancy Wilson is wonderful and missed us because of the storm, but we're up to our _____ in women! My men think the whole Fellowship is in the hands of women at this point! Great as that is, it aint true! Some guy must be coming this way at some time this summer -- ask him to stop off and see us, please! Art Gazeault was here, but in midweek, late at night, and could not stay. We'd pay the difference between some city nearby -- like Boston or N.Y. if someone were there -- like maybe someone from Great Lakes district. I can't remember feeling so isolated when we had the bigger district. Maybe we all know each other too well and need some new blood! Or maybe we were all exhorters together, and no one is a prophet in their own home town, or their own home district.

I preached at the Boston Interfaith Service on Gay Pride Day. I enclose press clipping re same. Did you ever get a tape of my Women and the Bible talk. Someone (I think Don Borbe) said he was going to send it to you. I usually preach a "fairy tale" sermon -- use a tale as a parable. I have sermons on "The Frog Prince," "Snow White, the Wicked Queen and other Fairy Tales," "The Emperor's New Clothes," (about seeing through

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We need a visit from someone in the Fellowship. Probably a man, W.H. District now has more women ministers than men -- Dea Jackson, Gralley, Hamilton, Karen Belger and myself/Gil Lincoln, Ed Hungen, Mike Wardlaw. We need a visitor with charisma, strong preaching style, and wit. Of course we can't afford him, but someone else could pass by and let us in on what's going on and let us feel like part of the family. I saw Frank Corvelli in N.Y. and told him that, too. Nancy Wilson is wonderful! My men think the whole Fellowship is in the hands of women at this point! Guest as that is, it isn't true! Some guy must be coming this way at some time this summer -- ask him to stop off and see us, please! And Gassman was here, but in midweek, late at night, and could not stay. We'd pay the difference between some city nearby -- like Boston or N.Y. if someone were there -- like maybe someone from Great Lakes district. I can't remember feeling so isolated when we had the bigger district. Maybe we all know each other too well and need some new blood! Or maybe we were all extremists together, and no one in a prophet in their own home town, or their own home district.

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exclusionary tactics in churches), the "Three Pigs" and am working on one called "Red Riding Hood is a Born-Again Believer." They're fun and carry a strong evangelical message.

We are not getting "In Unity". Don't know why but I also have not gotten the minister's copy of the Finance Committee report (my clerk got here, but I did not. Have we been dropped from the mailing list inadvertently?

I think it's the summer doldrums, but I miss looking foward to General Conference badly this year. Maybe we'll get used to it, but since I don't drink or smoke that was my high!

Love to all,

Marge Ragona

mfr

August 17, 1978

Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Moderator
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan
Community Churches
P.O. Box 5570
Los Angeles, Calif. 90055

FOR IN UNITY

Dear Troy:

As I mentioned to you while you were here, I had sent a number of things to IN UNITY, which apparently never saw the light of day. I am enclosing the two bits of publicity which we received via the newsletters of our host church and the R.I. Council of churches; also the newspaper clipping regarding the same fast and the photo of myself and Ray Lariviere which was printed in the newspaper (only without Ray). After use, I would like the picture back!

The effect, by the way, of the letter Paul Gillespie sent to pastors was that we (Chuck Noice and I) met with police commissioner Ricci and discussed the problems they were having with gays and the problems gays were having with the police. We were then given permission to speak to the Police Academy (both rookies and promotees to Sergeant and Lieutenant). Also there was a new force of 4 officers assigned to the downtown area where the gay bars are, "sensitive" policepersons (since one is a woman), who are encouraged to go into the bars, get to know our people, and act to protect the gays in the bars, on the streets, and from attacking, marauding gangs that have been hassling the gays.

Your visit was a huge success, by Providence standards. ~~71~~ was a good number for us -- for anything! That was the largest audience we have had for any occasion since I have been here. Our total intake (money) was \$215.00. We have forwarded Boston \$50.00 to help pay for your air fare, which leaves us \$165.00 to the good. At some point soon, we will be sending a check for \$50.00 for the Anti-Briggs amendment forces. It is the best we can do -- I hope it helps. (I need Board approval to send it -- or it would be included herewith.)

I personally want to thank you for coming. Your visit was a shot in the arm for a small church that often feels isolated from the Fellowship. God bless, stay well. Get some rest as soon as you can. We love you.

By the way, the day after you left we had another suicide. Phil Poirier, who used to be Billy Mencer (of Ray & Billy)'s roommate, jumped from the bridge at Fall River. He was a good friend of mine, and never once reached out for help. This was totally of the blue. No one had seen him or heard from him since Jan

August 17, 1978

Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Moderator
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan
Community Churches

P.O. Box 5570

Los Angeles, Calif. 90052

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We will make it -- as a people -- only when we learn that we are entitled to seek and receive help, real help with our problems -- just like everybody else.

Pray for us. Pray for John Gaffney and for a woman named Charlotte Brito who is in the same hospital for bilateral mastectomies -- 34 years old.

Again, we love you. We really look forward to Conference next summer.

Love -- in Christ,

Marge Ragona

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METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

OF PROVIDENCE

POST OFFICE BOX 1462

PROVIDENCE, RI 02901

Rev. Marge Ragona, Pastor
5 Junction Street, Providence
(401) 272-9247

Sunday Services - 7:00 PM
134 Mathewson St.

June 27, 1978

Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Moderator
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches
P.O. Box 36277
Los Angeles, Calif. 90036

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Second group of materials relates to the fast: First is a news article carried in the Providence Journal-Bulletin. With it is the "Messenger" of The Mathewson Street United Methodist Church, our host church with a note by their pastor about the fast. They were wonderfully supportive and came by Sunday after church tooting and waving. Most wonderful were little old ladies in print chiffon who came by in taxicabs on their way home and fell out the windows waving and had the drivers toot, etc. It was crazy and fun and unbelievable watching 60 Methodists in a caravan going by. Many stopped and talked, brought their children and parents over to meet us, etc. Also with that group of materials is a copy of "Highlights" the newsletter of the R.I. Council of Churches, with Paul Gillespie's notation about the fast. He is a real saint -- and it turns out was a member of the same First Baptist Church of New Orleans that I was, but we never met because by the time I got there he had gone away to seminary. I know his parents, however. So Paul and I are fairly close. He came ^{and} during the fast (as did Bill Zeigler, our host pastor) and Paul had good advice from Ghandi, whom he had written a paper about while in seminary. Good people and we have a good relationship going.

The third article appended relates to Michael Nordstrom's ministry to the deaf at our church, and appeared in the R.I. Churchman, the newsletter of the Episcopal Diocese.

Sometimes small towns are exciting places to be. News is a commodity which has great value, and almost anything newsworthy is picked up. The Editor of the paper happens, just accidentally, to be a member of our host church! We get excellent publicity!

I am enclosing a duplicate of this letter and a photograph, which I would hope you would pass along to "In Unity" for their use.

The Lord has been blessing us with over a nd above tithes, which are keeping us alive this summer. We had 21 adults, 9 children in church Sunday, our offering was \$31.00 (I was away in N.Y. for Gay Pride Day), and Jean Gralley had done some extra work and made extra money. She tithed it and our intake for the week was \$78.00. Miracles continue to happen. We will survive and we will be stronger come fall. ** They we got another check in the mail for \$300 + made budget !!*

I am going back to work in Boston for the summer -- they offered me my old job back and we will be okay. This is a poor town, but the few people associated with MCC want it here badly. The potential for reaching the rest of the gay people here is not good, however, and I wonder what it will take to get to them. I suspect only closing the bars would do it.

We are reaching still more gay mothers -- there must be hundreds out in those New England woods and little towns. The kids at the church are a great help when we counsel with gay mothers, they tell of their experiences and relate well with the other children. It helps. Our potluck usually has 6-8 gay mothers and their children at it.

we need a visit from someone in the Fellowship. Preferably a man, N.E. District now has more women ministers than men -- Dee Jackson, Shelley Hamilton, Karen Zeigler and myself/Gil Lincoln, Ed Hougen, Mike Nordstrom. We need a visitor with charisma, strong preaching style, and wit. Of course we can't afford HIM, but someone else could pass by and let us in on what's going on and let us feel like part of the family. I saw Frank Zerelli in N.Y. and told him that, too. Nancy Wilson is wonderful and missed us because of the storm, but we're up to our _____ in women! My men think the whole Fellowship is in the hands of women at this point! Great as that is, it aint true! Some guy must be coming this way at some time this summer -- ask him to stop off and see us, please! Art Cazeault was here, but in midweek, late at night, and could not stay. We'd pay the difference between some city nearby -- like Boston or N.Y. if someone were there -- like maybe someone from Great Lakes district. I can't remember feeling so isolated when we had the bigger district. Maybe we all know each other too well and need some new blood! Or maybe we were all exhorters together, and no one is a prophet in their own home town, or their own home district.

** for special occasions*
I preached at the Boston Interfaith Service on Gay Pride Day. I enclose press clipping re same. Did you ever get a tape of my Women and the Bible talk. Someone (I think Don Borbe) said he was going to send it to you. I usually preach a "fairy tale" sermon -- use a tale as a parable. I have sermons on "The Frog Prince," "Snow White, the Wicked Queen and other Fairy Tales," "The Emperor's New Clothes," (about seeing through

exclusionary tactics in churches), the "Three Pigs" and am working on one called "Red Riding Hood is a Born-Again Believer." They're fun and carry a strong evangelical message.

We are not getting "In Unity". Don't know why but I also have not gotten the minister's copy of the Finance Committee report (my clerk got hers, but I did not.) Have we been dropped from the mailing list inadvertently?

I think it's the summer doldrums, but I miss looking forward to General Conference badly this year. Maybe we'll get used to it, but since I don't drink or smoke that was my high!

Love to all,

Marge
Marge Ragona

mfr

MANY GIFTS • ONE SPIRIT

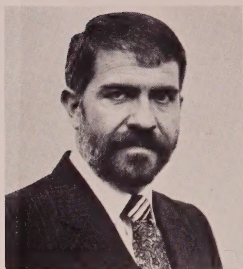


General Conference XI
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

July 11-17, 1983

Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

I Corinthians 12:4-6 "There is a variety of gifts but always the same spirit"



Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry
Founder, Moderator

Brothers and Sisters in Christ: Now is the time to get ready for another exciting General Conference. G.C. XI will be held July 11-17, 1983 at the University of Toronto in Toronto, Ontario. Our family members in Toronto, their pastor, Rev. Brent Hawkes and their local coordinator, Mr. Gary Chapman, have been preparing for this event for over 2 years. Our Fellowship General Conference Management Team has been hard at work to make this the most productive, positive and renewing Conference in our 14 year history. Come prepared to worship and praise God, to renew old friendships and meet new friends, to work and play together as we move ahead in our ministry.

Mr. Richard Ploen
General Conference XI
Coordinator



GENERAL CONFERENCES of the Universal Fellowship are a biennial event. The main focuses of the Conferences are two daily worship services and the business meetings. These meetings focus on the purpose, structure and future plans of the Fellowship and its ministry. In addition, there are many programs, seminars and social events that make General Conference an experience of a lifetime. Join several thousand people in Toronto this summer for an international MCC family reunion!

A special feature of General Conference XI will be several all day seminars on Thursday July 14.

OUR FEATURED GUEST SPEAKER



Virginia R. Mollenkott, Ph.D. will be the featured speaker.

VIRGINIA MOLLENKOTT was born on January 28, 1932 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She had a Christian upbringing and education, receiving a B.A. from Bob Jones University in 1953. Mollenkott earned an M.A. from Temple University (1955) and a Ph.D. from New York University (1964).

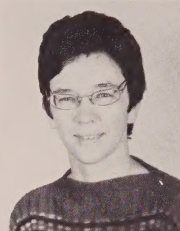
Mollenkott is known for writings on English literature (especially the 17th century), religion, education, feminism and social justice. All of her writings may be subsumed under the theme of *oneness*, which Mollenkott variously describes as an "organic wholeness" and a "transcendental integrative vision."

In *Women, Men and the Bible* (1977), Mollenkott calls for male-female equality through mutual submission and mutual service, stressing that "Christian equality is never a matter of jockeying for the dominant position." The theme of neighbor love and social justice is examined further in *Is the Homosexual My Neighbor?* (1978), where the emphasis is on respecting the dignity and worth of one of society's most oppressed groups.

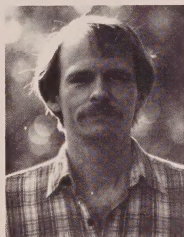
Critics have acknowledged Mollenkott as an important literary scholar, noted especially for her work on Milton, and also as an articulate Christian humanist and an influential evangelical feminist.

SEMINAR LEADERS

Rev. Boyd Bull will be doing a seminar with Rev. F. Jay Deacon entitled "Embodiment: Uniting the Spiritual and Sensual self."



JENNIE BOYD BULL, (pastor of MCC Baltimore, Maryland), is chair of the Commission on Faith, Fellowship and Order of UFMCC. She was formerly Minister of Outreach with MCC Washington, D.C. and Worship Coordinator of MCC of Northern Virginia. In 1982 she received a Masters of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary. During her nine years with UFMCC, she has served on the Fellowship's Task Force on Inclusive Language, as MidAtlantic District lay representative, and has developed workshops in inclusive language, feminism and Christianity, and embodiment for use at the local, district and Fellowship levels.



Rev. Deacon will be doing a seminar with Rev. Jennie Boyd Bull entitled "Embodiment: Uniting the Spiritual and Sensual Self."

F. JAY DEACON, senior pastor of Good Shepherd Parish MCC, Chicago, founded MCC Hartford, Connecticut and holds a Master of Divinity (1973) from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Boston. He is a candidate for the Doctor of Ministry at McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, where his major project is an intensive educational enterprise, conducted through Good Shepherd, in the integration of sexuality and creation-centered spirituality. He is editor of *The Gay Christian*; a member of the Commission on Government, Structures and Systems; and is involved in the media ministry of the Chicago Church Federation, and issues such as human rights and peace.



Rev. Eastman will be doing a seminar titled "Church Growth in Good and Bad Times."

REV. DON EASTMAN has served as a pastor of MCC Dallas, Texas, USA for the past five years. Under his leadership the Dallas congregation has grown from less than 200 to more than 500 members. He has also served as District Coordinator of the South Central District and is the current chair person of the Commission on Government Structures and Systems.

Rev. Eastman, a clergy person for the past 16 years has previously served as pastor of Holy Spirit MCC, Des Moines, Iowa, and an Assembly of God Church in his native state of Wisconsin.



Rev. Renee McCoy will be overseeing a day of celebration for Third World People.

REV. RENEE MCCOY is the Worship Coordinator of Harlem MCC and the Director of the UFMCC Department of Race Relations. She has been active in UFMCC since 1976 when she became a member of MCC Detroit. Renee is an active leader in the Third World community. She is the founder of both the Detroit Coalition of Black Gays and the New York Coalition of Third World Lesbians and Gay men. She has been a board member and co-chair of the National Coalition of Black Gays. Renee is a writer and a poet.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE XI MANAGEMENT TEAM

Mr. Richard Ploen, Conference Coordinator
Mr. Philip Gallnitz, UFMCC Office Administrator
Mr. Michael Mank, Elder and Treasurer of UFMCC
Rev. Elder Nancy L. Wilson, Clerk of the Board of Elders

ON GOING EVENTS -- 24 HOURS

- SUBSTANCE ABUSE
- CHAPELS
- HOSPITALITY - TORONTO CHURCH

SPECIAL EVENTS

- WOMEN'S CONCERNS
- MEN'S CONCERNS
- PASTORAL CARE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- TOURS
- CELEBRATION FAIR
- HUMAN RIGHTS RALLY

Registration for General Conference XI is \$75.00. For more brochures, information, housing and registration forms, please contact the General Conference Coordinator, Mr. Richard Ploen, at UFMCC, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, California 90029, (213) 464-5100. .

The deadline for all registrations is May 31, 1983.

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches represents over 200 churches in 9 countries. We are an ecumenical denomination, committed to sharing the all-inclusive love of God. Our primary outreach has been to Gay men and Lesbians and to others often denied the good news of God's love. The growth and love in our Fellowship is our powerful testimony to God's healing, liberating and saving power in Jesus Christ.

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCHES
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